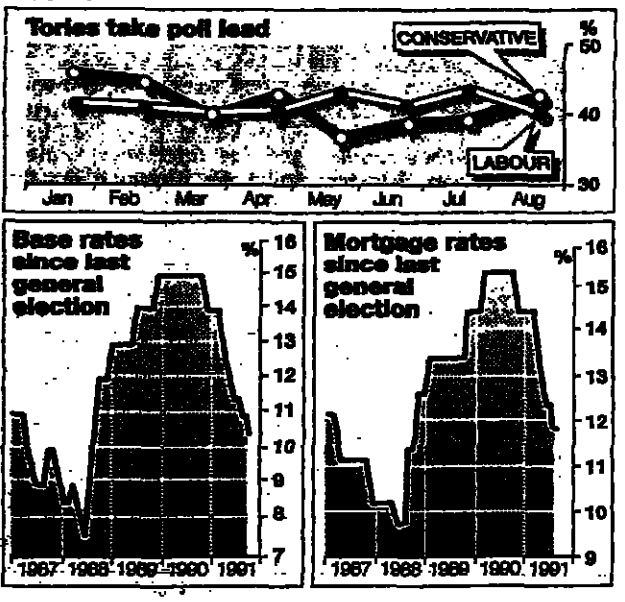


Lamont gives boost to home owners and business

Tories test election mood with rates cut

By Philip Webster and Anatole Kaletsky

A SURPRISE half-point cut in interest rates yesterday sharpened prospects for an autumn general election, with November 7 emerging as the favourite date. Mortgage lenders swiftly followed the Bank of England, trimming their rates to about 12 per cent. The boost for home buyers and business was seen as one of a series of factors that may persuade John Major not to wait until next year to seek his own mandate from the country. Opinion polls are apparently moving in favour of the Conservatives, the prime minister's personal standing has been enhanced by his role on the international stage, and ministers are taking an upbeat view of the economy. Against such a background, Norman Lamont's decision to cut interest rates for the eighth time this year was seen as a deliberate move to test the public mood before a decision is taken on whether to hold the poll on November 7.

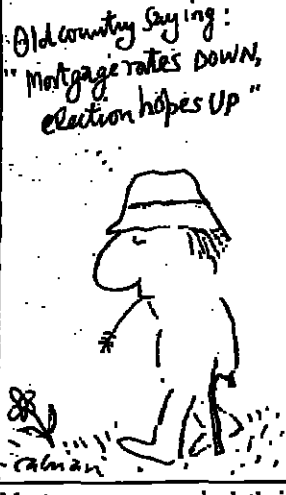


rate should fall to 3.8 per cent, comfortably below the level in Germany. That would allow a further cut in interest rates and present Mr Major with a tempting opportunity to announce the election. While the bookmakers William Hill shortened the odds for a November poll from 5-2 to 5-4, Mr Major declined to be drawn on timing. Questioned by reporters in Hong Kong, he would say only: "Inflation is falling, confidence is rising, our economic prospects are better now than for many months. Inflation will continue to fall in the months ahead." The Chancellor took a similar approach, declaring that the latest cut would be "very good news for industry and consumers up and down the country. It will, I hope, consolidate the very marked improvement in confidence we have seen in recent weeks. Above all, it reflects the cautious and prudent approach we have taken in the management of the economy and our success in getting inflation down. Inflation is set to fall further in the next few months - and that is the best possible news for the British economy."

Lower mortgages will benefit 3m

By Our Business Staff

FRANKLIN'S mortgage rates for three million home buyers followed a half point cut in bank base rates to 10.5 per cent yesterday. Almost immediately after the Bank of England sanctioned a base rate cut the Halifax and Abbey National, the two biggest home loan lenders, acted. The Halifax brought its basic rate down 0.45 percentage points to 11.5 per cent, and Abbey National cut the cost of its lending 0.4 percentage points to 11.55 per cent. Two weeks ago the Halifax cut the rate charged to all its annual review customers with immediate effect. The customers would otherwise not have received the cut until next spring. Halifax denied that it had come under political pressure to make the cut but John Maples, a junior Treasury minister, welcomed the move. The average £60,000 mortgage will now be about £17 a month cheaper, while people with a £30,000 loan will save almost £7, according to the Halifax. Both rates come into effect immediately for new borrowers and from next month for existing borrowers.



Child's play: a Vietnamese youngster waving a British flag to welcome John Major on his visit to the High Island detention centre for boat people

Camps see the softer Major

John Major was moved yesterday by the boat people's plight. Robin Oakley reports from Hong Kong

As Dr David Owen proved in the heyday of the SDP, being "tough but tender" can do a lot for a politician. After his blunt lecture to the Chinese on human rights John Major moved on yesterday to Hong Kong, where his first act was to visit the High Island detention centre, one of the camps set up to house the boat people who have fled from Vietnam. As a photo opportunity it represented a risk. Officials recalled that when he was foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe was nearly crushed at one camp. As Mr Major told the local press: "It does not matter how sophisticated the briefings, some things you have to see for yourself." It was clear too that he wanted to send two signals: one of sympathy for the boat people themselves, who have risked so much to find so little, and sympathy for Hong Kong, virtually the only state in the region still operating a policy of first asylum and not turning boats back to sea. As a result it has 62,000 refugees to support. Mr Major proved no more immune to the sight of the boat people than the rest of us. Penned up behind huge steel fences topped by coils of barbed wire, living in batches of 300 in corrugated iron sheds, these gentle-looking people manage somehow to maintain both cleanliness and dignity. In con-

Pretoria gives blacks a vote

From GAVIN BELL IN BLOEMFONTEIN

PRESIDENT de Klerk yesterday proposed giving black South Africans a vote for the first time in a constitution which shares power between the races but does not surrender to majority rule. The plan was immediately rejected by the African National Congress which said it was a recipe for disaster "designed to deny to a future South African government the power to truly liberate the country from the misery apartheid has wrought". The essence of the plan, which the Nationalists will present at negotiations on a new constitution, is to divide power and rule by consensus at all levels. A power-sharing system would comprise a collective presidency drawn from the leaders of three or more of the largest parties, a multiparty cabinet, a bicameral parliament, and largely autonomous regional and local administrations. The principal obstacle to any party gaining outright power would be the second house of parliament, which would be invested with veto rights on legislation. Unlike the first house, which would be elected by proportional representation, the second chamber would be weighted in favour of minorities drawn from nine regions. Mr de Klerk, announcing the proposals at a federal congress in Bloemfontein yesterday, said that they did not have any hidden racial motive, and should not be construed as apartheid in another form. "It is not a magic formula, but it does offer a plan for a workable constitution which can guarantee democratic values." The ANC said that the envisaged form of mandatory, rather than voluntary, coalition politics would render the country ungovernable. Mr de Klerk said he had not expected the ANC to support the plan, because it militated against its concept of a centralised government. "I absolutely reject the accusation that it is an effort to entrench white rights. This proposal is strictly stripped of any form of racism." Despite the ANC's hostile reaction, Mr de Klerk remained optimistic that they could work out a compromise. Delegates applaud, page 7

Fourth lane and side roads bring relief to the M25

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

LONG-AWAITED plans to widen London's M25 orbital motorway to four lanes in each direction, and to separate local traffic from the main highway by building parallel relief roads, were unveiled yesterday by Christopher Chope, the roads minister. The first phase of the estimated £2.8 billion scheme, widening almost all remaining three-lane sections of the 117-mile motorway to four lanes each way will begin next year, and 80 per cent of work should be completed within six years. The second phase, to involve building a network of collector-distributor roads or relief roads between junctions 5 and 28, will take much longer, because of the need to hold public enquiries into acquisition of land. Widening to four lanes will take place between junctions 5 and 11, and junctions 15 and 28. Work will be carried out largely within the present motorway boundaries, and will involve small reductions in lane widths. Under the revised plans, the inside lane will remain 12ft wide, but the second lane will be reduced to 11ft 6in, the third lane to 11ft, and the outside lane to 10ft 8in. Hard shoulders will be omitted only for short distances near bridges. Consultants are still working on details of the proposed collector-distributor roads, to be designed to reduce or eliminate short-distance junction-hopping, thus freeing the motorway for long-distance traffic. Collector-distributor

Members vote to end Soviet parliament

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

MOST members of the full Soviet parliament last night approved in principle proposals that would virtually terminate the assembly's existence and create a looser Soviet federation, jointly managed by the republics. The decision marked a tactical success for Mikhail Gorbachev, caught between the conservative assembly's reluctance to dismantle the Soviet Union, and the inexorable resurgence of the republics. His proposals have yet to win the two-thirds majority normally required to change the constitution, and he was forced to jettison language that would have approved all declarations of sovereignty by Soviet republics. His reluctance to face the embarrassment of a negative vote on the Baltic territories fuelled expectations that he will acknowledge their secession by executive decision. Independence draft, page 10

Champagne bubbles up as rates trickle down

By Alan Hamilton

WITH yesterday's news that interest rates are to fall yet again, there are straws in the wind that indicate one of two things: either we are beginning to claw our way out of recession, or recession is a condition from which the rich are wholly immune. If champagne is any barometer, the economy is looking up. Earlier this year, for the first time in many years, imports fell so drastically that Britain surrendered to Germany its traditional position as the world's main champagne export market. Figures for July, the latest available, show that the importation of 873,924 bottles restored us to the top of the league. Champagne imports for the first

seven months of this year are still 43 per cent down on the corresponding period last year, but recently, according to the Champagne Bureau, which represents the producers in Britain, there has been a slight but noticeable improvement. The rest of the wine and spirit trade, however, remains in a state of unalloyed gloom, with little sign of recovery in the mass drinking market. "I have heard no happy sounds from traders at all this year, the hot weather has not helped either, with people switching from alcohol to soft drinks", Max Laurie, of the Wine and Spirit Association, said. Skies are a little brighter at Harrods, and not only because the company has lifted its employees' pay freeze. Sales

in the Knightsbridge store are not necessarily the most reliable guide to the state of the nation's economic health because many customers are foreigners and more than half of the domestic ones inhabit the so-called tiara triangle within three miles of its front door. None the less, it cannot but be encouraging to learn that only three days ago, a customer placed an order for £2,000 worth of Beluga caviar. Within the past week the store has sold a Lalique crystal table for £34,200, a set of Dresden porcelain for £6,000, a suite of giltwood reproduction furniture for £45,000, and what must surely be the world's most expensive domestic fridge, at £3,300. At the horological counter, Harrods reports that sales of seriously expen-

sive watches are holding up exceptionally well, but what it rather sniffily refers to as "volume business" - watches up to £200 - is down and as yet showing no sign of recovery. The store's recently opened duty-free shop and food hall in Terminal 3 at Heathrow has been showing an excellent upturn in the past week, with perfumery to the fore and more than one departing traveller spending over £1,000 with no apparent signs of pain. "Our customers look to the stockmarket rather than pay rises for their income and during this recession the stock market has been extremely buoyant", a Harrods spokesman said buoyantly, revelling in his pay rise. Bernard Levin, page 16

SOME PEOPLE LIVE BY THE RULES.

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THE DECEIVER

HIS DEVASTATING NEW THRILLER - OUT NOW

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

BACK TO HEALTH
Venus Scanelli can touch her toes any time, any way, but then she is only 83 years old. Can her form of yoga save our aching backs? Page 13

BACK TO COLLEGE
This year's students could be the last of the breed as both main parties promise big post-election changes in education. Pages 33-35

BACK TO HARLEM
Spike Lee draws on his filmic past in *Jungle Fever*, full of fire and brimstone. If only Lee could learn the art of relaxation. Page 15

BACK TO THE EC
Mr Justice Michael made legal history by refusing to try a former Euro-MP as it would infringe European sovereignty. Page 2

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10 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section



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Judge refuses to hear case because of EC sovereignty

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE made legal history yesterday when he refused to try a former Euro-MP for allegedly cheating on his expenses because it would infringe the sovereignty of the European parliament. It is thought to be the first time that a case has been thrown out of a British court because of European sovereignty.

Mr Justice Morland declined jurisdiction in the case and ordered indictments against Mr Leslie Huckfield, aged 49, former MEP for Merseyside East, and two other men to be quashed.

He told Manchester crown court that the case was of "important constitutional significance". To try Mr Huckfield on two charges that he obtained by deception £2,529 from the parliament's British Labour group would have meant an English court interpreting the rules of the European parliament. "This would involve an infringement by this court of the sovereignty of the European parliament," he said.

The judge criticized prosecuting authorities for proceeding with the charges and apparently not considering the question of sovereignty, although it had been raised with them in 1988.

Yesterday Michael Fisher, solicitor for Mr Huckfield, described the decision as historic. "The prosecuting authorities launched this manifestly ill-founded and ill-considered prosecution within days of the court hearing in which Mr Huckfield was suing them for libel," he said. The libel proceedings, which were stayed pending the prosecution, would now go ahead, Mr Fisher said.

Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service said that it would study the transcript of proceedings and the judge's reasons before deciding if it would appeal. "We took the opinion of counsel and leading counsel and their view was that this question did not impinge on European sovereignty and that it was not a question of jurisdiction," a spokeswoman said.

She added that the judge had made clear it was a highly complex and novel point in law. Costs had not been awarded against the prosecution service, but from central funds.

The decision is the latest to evoke debate about the relationship between British sovereignty and European institutions and to prompt fears that the former is being eroded. The Conservative MP Sir Teddy Taylor, secretary of the



A question of jurisdiction: Leslie Huckfield, the accused, left; Mr Justice Morland, top right; and George Carman, QC, who applied for the case to be rejected

party's backbench European Reform Group, described the decision as "frightening but, I fear, correct."

However, lawyers said that the ruling only extended the principle, already well recognized, of parliamentary immunity. David Pannick, a barrister and specialist in

European law, said that there was nothing "frightening nor surprising" about the decision. "As a matter of English law, if there are allegations in relation to parliamentary activity, it is for the House itself to decide what action to take. Otherwise there would be potential conflict between

the courts and Parliament," he said.

Mr George Carman, QC, who applied for the court to decline jurisdiction before a jury was sworn, said that Mr Huckfield was a man of good character who had been in "suspense, anxiety and jeopardy" for three years.

Private polls hold key to election date

The timing of the next general election rests with the prime minister alone, and he, as Philip Webster reports, will probably sleep on it

THE night of Thursday, October 10, could be the loneliest of John Major's life. After working in his Blackpool hotel on his first speech to the party conference as prime minister, he may retire to bed still uncertain whether to use the occasion to make the momentous announcement of a general election on November 7. Only he can decide.

Political insiders closely involved in the processes that led up to the decision on the timing of the 1983 and 1987 elections believe that to go in November would be a gamble, whatever happens between now and then.

When Margaret Thatcher called close colleagues to Chequers on May 10, 1987, a June election was a foregone conclusion. Only the date had to be decided, and she was pretty well fixed on June 11. This time it cannot be so clearcut.

The conventional wisdom has emerged that the governing party needs a solid opinion poll lead for at least three months to justify confidence in going to the country. The latest apparent turnaround in political fortunes has come too late to make that possible.

Though the odds still seem to be against it, it is a gamble that Mr Major, keen to win his own mandate and to capitalise on his strong popularity in the country, may be prepared to take. In the weeks leading up to Blackpool he will spend many hours consulting his colleagues and poring over the mass of polling and statistical data assembled for him by Central Office, his policy unit chief, Sarah Hogg, and political secretary, Judith Chaplin.

In the week of the conference Mr Major and the cabinet may decide in principle that the conditions look right for November 7. Insiders believe, however, that because

of the inevitable risk involved in such a choice he would want to leave it to the last minute. They predict he would sleep on it.

While publicly pointing towards next year, as John MacGregor, the Commons leader, did again yesterday, cabinet ministers are privately again looking seriously at the November option. When his current round of world travels is over, so will Mr Major.

Next week he will discuss the post-August climate with Chris Patten, party chairman, and his three most trusted colleagues: Richard Ryder, the chief whip, Mr MacGregor, and John Wakeham.

The key figure is Mr Patten, whose job is to ensure that the party machine is ready for Mr Major whenever he decides to go. He will furnish him with information about opinion inside the party, the views of the regional chairmen, the trend of recent council elections, and opinion polls, both public and, more importantly, private. Perhaps the most vital will be the indicators on economic optimism which have just started looking rosy for the Conservatives.

Polls are being conducted in Tory-held marginal constituencies in the North and Midlands. According to informed sources, the most recent polling data to arrive at Smith Square is in line with last weekend's poll showing an upsurge in Tory support.

Throughout September the balance sheet will be revised. An informed source says: "The polling figures will be constantly updated, checked and tested. Ministers will be reading the runes, getting a feel from the press. When the bandwagon starts, it will be hard to stop."

Rates cut test, page 1
Leading article, page 17

BR recalls new trains after cracks disclosed

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is recalling dozens of its new Class 158 express trains for modifications after routine tests disclosed cracks in the aluminium carriages.

The aluminium carriages of the trains, which were first brought into service on Scotland routes less than a year ago, will be replaced with steel carriages, at the same time as modifications are made to the train's electrical systems. The

family trains, which were designed and built by BREL, Britain's largest locomotive and rolling stock manufacturer which was privatised in 1989, will be modified under warranty.

The recall comes 24 hours after Peter Holdstock, chief executive of BREL, was removed from his post because of the company's poor performance in delivering orders to British Rail on time.

AEU is the favourite in Toyota union deal

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TOYOTA looks increasingly likely to award the single-union deal for its new car plant in Britain to the AEU engineering union.

Three of Britain's principal trade unions have met senior managers from the company to pitch for the deal covering 700 employees at the assembly plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and the engine factory at Shotton, Chwyd. Two others will see Toyota next week.

While Toyota has not yet said whether its UK operation will be unionised, such as Nissan's plant in Sunderland, or non-union, such as Honda's Swindon factory, the company seems certain to recognise a trade union. The deal with Toyota, Japan's biggest car manufacturer, is the most significant single-union agreement in Britain since that with Nissan in 1984.

Competition for the Toyota deal has been fierce between the TOWU transport workers, the AEU, the GMB general union, the MSF general technical union and the EETPU electricians. However, after meetings with the company, officials from all five unions privately recognise that the AEU and the EETPU are front-runners, with the engineering union the favourite.

TUC conference, page 4

Baby posters go

Benetton's posters of a blood-smeared newborn baby were being removed from billboards yesterday after the Italian fashion retailer agreed to the Advertising Standards Authority's request that the advertisements should be removed from public view. It will be at least a week before all the posters are taken down. Benetton said yesterday that it was surprised by the extent of public reaction.

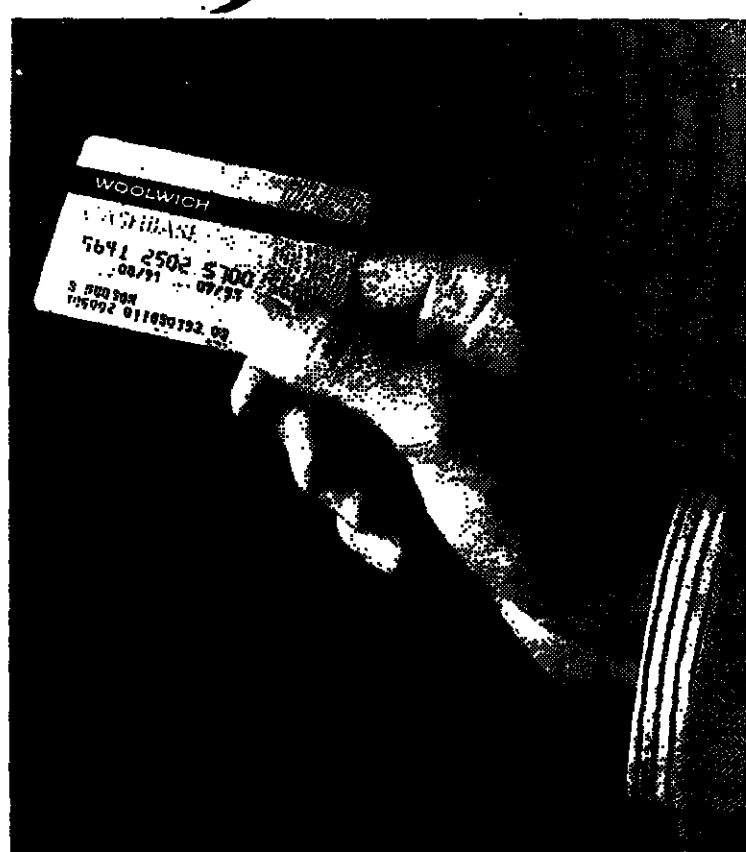
Isles enquiry

An independent report into the loss of £23 million by the Western Isles council in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International contains evidence that may justify disciplinary action against senior council officers. The council committee investigating the loss said yesterday. The report is by Professor Alan Alexander, of Strathclyde university. The enquiry is continuing.

Hurt disqualified

John Hurt, the actor, was disqualified from driving for 12 months and fined £2225 (£205) in Dublin yesterday after he admitted drink and dangerous driving charges. Hurt, aged 51, who lives in the Irish Republic, collided with a lamp post and a wall in Dublin last April. He was arrested by an off-duty police officer. Hurt initially faced eight charges but six were withdrawn.

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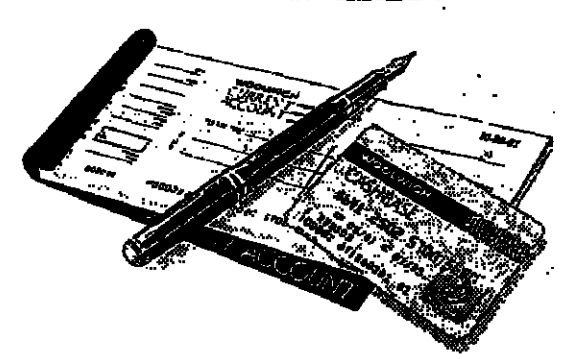
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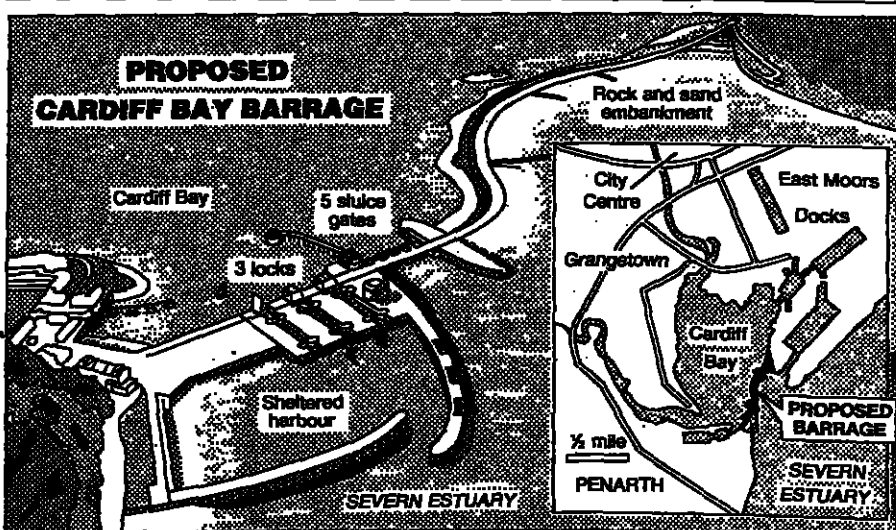
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Barrage plans to go ahead

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to press ahead with plans for a £150 million barrage across the Cardiff Bay entrance despite strong opposition from conservationists, local MPs and residents. David Hunt, Welsh secretary, said yesterday that the government would introduce legislation in the autumn enabling the barrage to be built.

Mr Hunt unveiled a model of a revised design for the barrage, which would create a non-tidal freshwater lake of 500 acres where there are now tidal mudflats. He said further studies would be undertaken on the barrage's effect on the area's water table level. If the results were satisfactory, the barrage would be built.

Speaking at a conference at Cardiff Bay to launch the new design Mr Hunt said: "It presents by far the biggest opportunity for creating many thousands of jobs. It will attract high quality investment worth over £1 billion and offer new oppor-

tunities for the people of Cardiff and South Wales." The new design for the barrage, which would be 1.1km long, envisages an S-shaped embankment of rock and sand, five sluice gates that will discharge the flow of the Taff and Ely rivers, three locks allowing access to the lake and a sheltered harbour on the seaward side for small boats waiting to use the locks. There is also provision for a fish pass that will allow salmon and other migratory fish to move into the lake.

Conservationist opposition to the barrage, which would be the largest civil engineering project in Europe after the Channel tunnel, is led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The society says the mudflats, in addition to being designated a site of special scientific interest, are of international importance as a feeding ground.

The Countryside Council for Wales, the government

adviser on conservation in the principality, said the proposed feeding grounds further up the Bristol Channel would accommodate only 25 per cent of the birds that feed in Cardiff Bay.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said that was "a very severe risk that the barrage would turn Cardiff into an urban swamp by raising the water table". "I do not think there is any way the government will be able to get this legislation through before a general election."

A locally sponsored private parliamentary bill that would have allowed the barrage to be built was "talked out" by filibustering Labour MPs last April and the government failed in a subsequent attempt to introduce a bill.

The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation accepts the water level could rise by one or two metres but denies that would cause problems.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

MINIMUM WAGE

Unions unite to back 'vote winning' Labour policy

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S policy of introducing a statutory national minimum wage will increase its support among the electorate according to a poll published yesterday by the trade unions.

The poll's findings were disclosed as the Trades Union Congress at its annual conference in Glasgow, for the first time backed unanimously a statutory national minimum wage. Labour will use the decision to deflect Conservative accusations of union splits over the issue.

The poll is significant because of the wide support it finds for a minimum wage, even among Conservative voters in the face of government opposition. The results also suggest that support is strong among skilled workers, some of whose leaders have also attacked the policy.

The poll, carried out for the GMB general union by Mori, found that a two-point overall lead for the Conservatives disclosed at the weekend was transformed into a four-point lead for Labour when people were asked how they would

vote if Labour guaranteed to introduce a minimum wage of £3.40 an hour. The Mori poll was carried out as part of a bigger Mori poll, the main findings of which were published last weekend by *The Sunday Times*. They showed that 42 per cent of those surveyed supported the Conservatives, 40 per cent backed Labour and 14 per cent the Liberal Democrats — putting the Conservatives ahead of Labour for the first time for months.

However, the findings of the GMB union part of the poll, published yesterday, give an interesting twist to the figures. When voting intention was allied to a minimum wage at a precise level, the first time a poll has put such a question, Labour scored 44 per cent, the Conservatives 40 per cent and the Lib Dems 12 per cent, with 4 per cent for others.

A £3.40 minimum wage was supported by 76 per cent of those questioned. Within that, 69 per cent of Conservative voters strongly supported or tended to support it. Eighty-five per cent of Labour voters

backed it, and 77 per cent of Lib Dems supporters.

Because of the opposition to a minimum wage from some leaders of skilled manual workers' unions, the results among such workers, a fifth of the sample, are particularly significant. Among C1 and C2 voters, where the bulk of skilled workers lie, support for a minimum wage came from 75 and 77 per cent respectively.

John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, said: "The national minimum wage is an idea whose time has come. The extravagant attacks by Michael Howard [employment secretary] have done it a great service. The more he directs attention to the minimum wage, the more people know about it. And the more people know about it, the more they like it."

Urging unions to shout the policy from the roof-tops, he said: "Of course we always suspected that Howard had got it wrong. But now it looks

like we have a real vote-winner on our hands."

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the AEU engineering union, who has opposed a minimum wage, tempered his criticism. He insisted that the AEU supported a minimum wage but not at the expense of differentials. "Skills must be rewarded," he said.

Mr Howard, continuing his attacks on the TUC, said yesterday that the minimum wage policy was one of staggering economic illiteracy that would hit jobs.

Diary, page 16



Tea break: Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, is served refreshment during yesterday's debates

Ending curb on councils 'would cut jobless'

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RELAXING government curbs on local authority spending could cut the number of unemployed people by up to 430,000 and open the door to £1 billion of grants from the

European Community, a TUC study says.

More than £6 billion of receipts from council house sales, which are unused due to spending caps, could be released to stimulate demand in the economy without unleashing renewed inflation, according to the study, based on June forecasts from the London Treasury economic model. The study underpins TUC pleas for government action against rising unemployment.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, chairman of the TUC's economic committee, yesterday called for further cuts in interest rates and tax incentives to help industrial investment. He also pressed for measures to stem the rise in unemployment. The TUC predicted that without such help, the number of jobless will average 2.8 million next year, and will not fall significantly until 1994.

The TUC is calling for 160,000 more training places for the jobless, at a cost of about £340 million a year. It has also calculated the impact of increases in public-sector spending ranging from £2 billion to £5 billion. The projections suggest that an additional £2 billion of capital spending would create 140,000 jobs by 1993, and that a £5 billion increase could create 270,000, in addition to the training places.

Bill Callaghan, TUC chief economist, said that the spending increases could be achieved without lifting inflation above 6 per cent, or pushing sterling out of its bands in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Mr Bickerstaffe, leader of the public service union Nupe, said access to £1 billion of EC aid funds was blocked by the operation of government caps on council spending.

Senior tax officers had calculated that spending just 10 per cent more of their time on compliance would raise revenues by £2 billion. Ms Symons said: "Two billion pounds could mean 1p off all our income tax. But it could also mean more nurses, fewer hospitals closing, more teachers or better public transport."

Compliance work by 2,261 senior tax inspectors brought in £2.8 billion in additional tax paid during the year to March, lifting total revenues from corporation tax, income tax and capital gains tax to £87 billion. In the current year, compliance work was expected to net £3.6 billion in taxes which businesses would otherwise have avoided paying.

Ms Symons said additional tax investigations should be focused on trusts, larger private companies and public companies dominated by families, and on companies involved in financial services.



Callaghan: seeking rise in public sector spending

CONGRESS NOTEBOOK Philip Bassett

Scots fail to charm southern comrades

The TUC's decision to come to Glasgow for its annual conference this year has proved almost universally unpopular.

TUC officials have been deluged with moans and complaints about virtually everything. The cavernous hall of the Scottish Exhibition Centre is probably attracting the most opprobrium. The TUC conference sits inside it, the conference "hall" in effect formed by huge black curtains, whose funeral gloom helps considerably to destroy any chances of the traditional, by-the-seaside blood-and-guts conference atmosphere.

Visions are penned in uers at the back, straining to hear through the peculiarities of the sound system. Journalists can see nothing from the press tables at the side of stage, so they watch it all on television, or do not stray from the press corral in another hall — a cramped enclosure squashed into one corner of a giant homage to the breeze-block.

Hotels have been lambasted for being too hot, too small, too crowded. Scottish trade unionists, who have their own Scottish TUC, an organisation whose traditionally pro-Moscow stance is likely to leave it as one of the few Soviet republics not expected to try to break away from the centre, are irritating their counterparts from south of the border by endlessly referring to the conference as the "BTUC", the British TUC.

Some union delegations have been trying hard. Brenda Dean, of the Graphical, Paper and Media union, was looking glamorous yesterday in a Tartan jacket, while the entire executive of the AEU engineering union, whose general secretary Gavin Laird is a Clydesider, were issued with tartan ties to wear at the union's *celtich* this week at Glasgow City Chambers, where to the strains of bagpipes and the spectacle of Highland dancing, delegates got outside lobster thermidor, medallions of Angus beef and Scottish cheeses.

But such pro-Scots sentiments have been rare in Glasgow this week. The TUC is in Blackpool next year, then returns to Brighton after some years' absence in protest at the town's high prices, with Bournemouth lightly pencilled in for 1994. The TUC was last in Glasgow in 1919. After this week, it might well be another 72 years before it again ventures so far north.

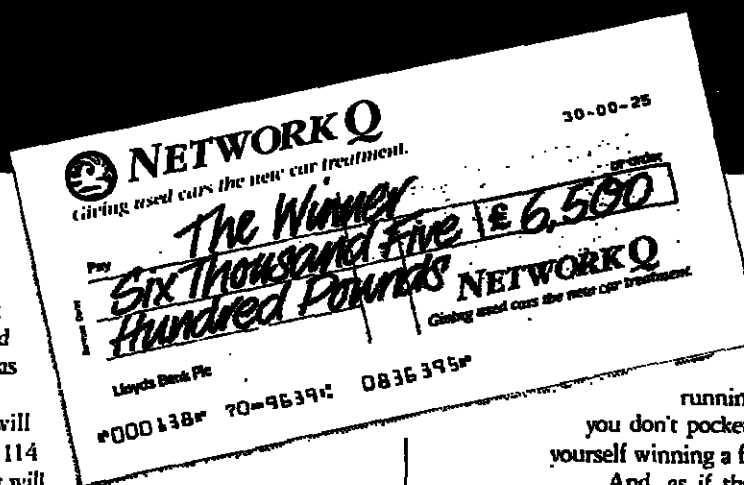
Much has been made at this year's TUC of the traditional attendance at the conference of two Soviet visitors, using their presence as an indicator that, though the hardliners may have been routed in Moscow, at the TUC they are still fazed. But at least as indicative — perhaps more so — is the relationship Britain's unions have always enjoyed with America. Earlier this summer, Raymond Seitz, the new American ambassador in London, hosted his embassy's traditional summer party for union leaders. He re-emphasised the relationship by arriving in Glasgow last night for a dinner with union leaders. Perhaps in maintaining their contacts with organised labour in Britain the Americans know something about the outcome of the forthcoming general election the rest of us do not.

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killed in
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FO officials blamed for cash mix-ups by computer

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AUDITORS found that the Foreign Office was left open to fraud and theft after computer errors led to millions of pounds being unaccounted for. The breakdown of old computers and teething troubles with a new system were blamed by the Commons public accounts committee yesterday for mix-ups last year in the department's accounts.

Acting on evidence gathered by the National Audit Office, the Tory-dominated watchdog committee criticised Foreign Office officials for making a serious mistake in believing that they could manage their new accounts computer on their own.

Sir John Bourn, comptroller and auditor general and head of the audit office, could not produce a proper audit of the

department's accounts because of the errors. In one instance last year, the department found that £31,000 was missing. A cashier has since been found guilty of theft and sentenced to a suspended jail sentence.

The committee said: "We consider that inadequate controls create a climate which is conducive to fraud and theft, and the extent of the department's problems may have heightened the risk of irregularities remaining undetected."

In February last year, Memory Computers delivered to the department the final parts of a new software system, but soon afterwards the company went into liquidation. In the same month, the old accounting system broke down irreparably with no back-up.

The department soon discovered that the new system contained programming errors which brought chaos to the accounting records. In November 1990, the department produced accounts to meet their legal obligations, but these were still out of balance by many millions of pounds, the committee said.

Worker killed in oil tanker explosion

One man was killed and another seriously injured by an explosion in a ship at an oil refinery yesterday. The blast happened aboard the 20,000-tonne tanker Esso Mersey at Esso's marine terminal, at Fawley, near Southampton, during off-loading of a cargo of naphtha—a flammable oil.

A man aged 21 was killed outright by the explosion, believed to have been in the ship's pump room, and a man of 46 was badly burnt. Both were Esso workers. It is believed that a pocket of gas in the pump room may have caused the blast. There was no fire. The injured man was taken to the burns unit of the Odstock hospital at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Veteran dies

Jack Strath, a former sailor, of Newport, Gwent, died in hospital at nearby Criffel town yesterday after a short illness. He was 107. Mr Strath, born on April 2, 1884, attributed his longevity to chewing his food properly and drinking navy rum. He joined the navy in 1899, following a long tradition: his family had been sailors since Nelson's time, when his great-grandfather was press-ganged.

Pit to close

Creswell colliery in Derbyshire is to close with the loss of 360 jobs, it was announced yesterday. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers immediately called on the government to prevent the closure. It said that the pit had made £200,000 profit in the past 20 weeks. British Coal said that geological problems prevented development. In the first quarter of this financial year, the pit lost £600,000.

Doctors charged

Two doctors charged with the manslaughter of a remand prisoner at Grimsby police station have been remanded on bail. Chulam Murtaza Salim, aged 54, of Waltham, near Grimsby, and Dharendra Nath Saha, also 54, of Grimsby, were remanded on bail by Grimsby magistrates. The two doctors, who are charged with the manslaughter of Graham Rawlinson, aged 23, who died in September last year.

Bright idea

Discs to reflect headlights have been put along a road at Camborne, Cornwall, to try to dazzle badgers and deter them from crossing until it is safe.

Bishop deplores nude Christ in mural

By PAUL WILKINSON

A RETIRED bishop said yesterday that he would speed past a church "as fast as the law would allow" to avoid seeing a controversial mural painted on its wall.

The Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, said the illustration of the day of judgement outside St Peter's Church in Morden, south London, gave him a "frisson" every time he saw it. "It blazes out a message of the wrath of God. I would like to see a message of the love of God."

The bishop was giving evidence to a Church of England consistory court at St Peter's which is considering a request from the parochial church council that the mural and paintings inside the church, depicting the stations of the

cross, should be removed. Christ appears nude in the paintings. A group of parishioners is opposing the request.

The work, done in 1973 by the self-taught artist Peter Peiz, uses modern themes to illustrate Christ's Passion. The Last Supper is shown as a farewell party with guitar-strumming hippies and cola cans on the table. The paintings feature tower blocks and the artist has used primary colours extensively.

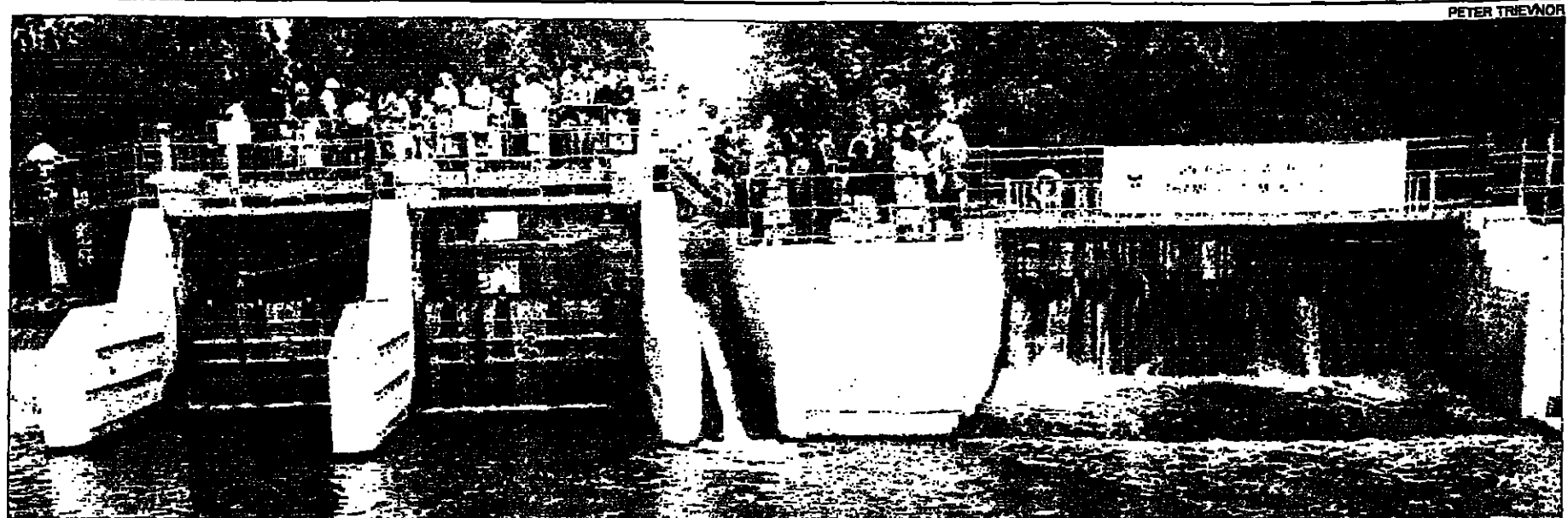
Bishop Montefiore, who is now an assistant bishop in Southwark diocese, said that the paintings contained no references to the traditional story of the stations of the cross, the points where Christ paused on his way to crucifixion. He accepted that the church had a duty

to show the story in the context of today's cultures. "But that does not mean we are at liberty to change it."

The Rev John Drury, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, who was called to give evidence by supporters of the pictures, said however that they were exciting expressionist works that made people think. They brightened up what was otherwise an austere 1930s building.

Mr Drury rejected suggestions that the nakedness of Jesus in the pictures was erotic. The lack of clothes showed the defencelessness of Christ during his Passion, when he was God made flesh.

A decision will be announced by the Chancellor of the Southwark diocese, Robert Gray, QC, next Friday.



On stream: the opening of a salmon pass on the Thames at Mapledurham yesterday. The pass is the seventh of 21 needed to let the fish swim to spawning grounds

Waters are parted in a minor Thames miracle

THE laborious unlocking of the Thames to free-running salmon was taken a stage further yesterday with a narrow rush of water down the centre of Mapledurham weir in Oxfordshire.

To the casual glance it is no more than another tumbling channel in a foaming white arc, yet to a salmon its current underwater will seem very different: calmer, less forbidding, above all navigable: a fish pass.

Opened yesterday by Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the National Rivers Authority, it is the seventh of the 21 that will be needed before Thames salmon can swim without obstacle from the sea to the tributary streams in the river's middle reaches that were once, and will be again, their natural spawning grounds: the Loddon, the Kennet, the Pang. When that happens, perhaps by 1995, the Thames will be able once again to support its own natural, self-sustaining run of fish, and become a great salmon river once more.

Considering that *Salmo*

Michael McCarthy sees another step in the salmon's return to its spawning streams

salmo was unrecorded in the river from 1834 to 1974, its full return to the Thames may come to seem a work of restoration rivaling that of any great house or old master.

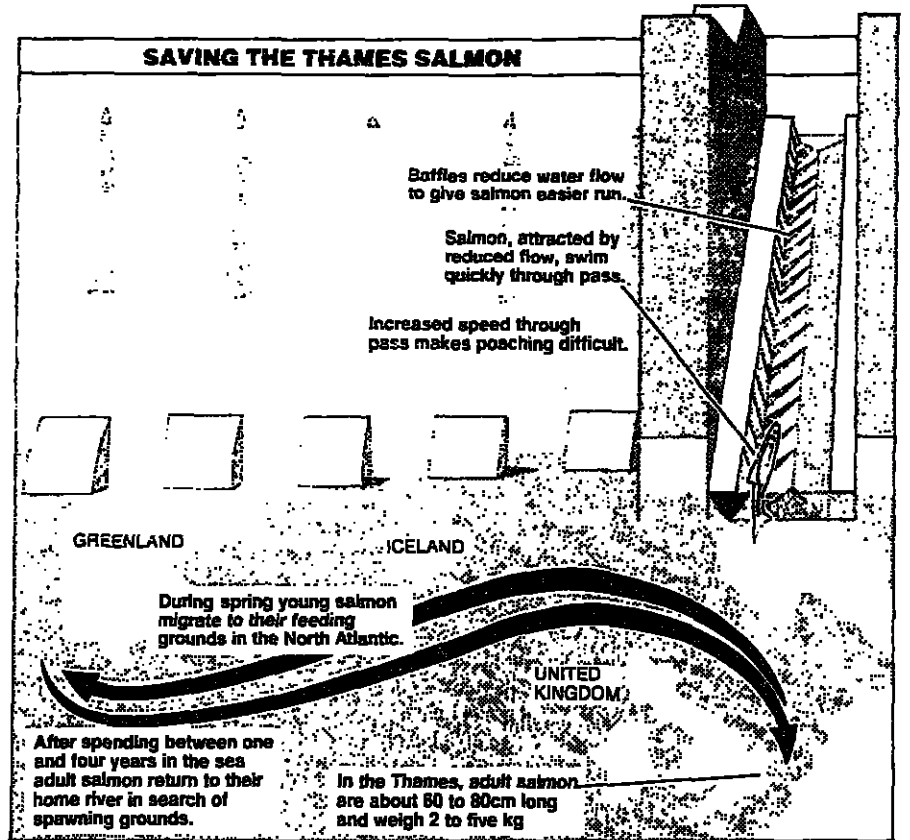
Like most restorations, however, it is proceeding by painful steps. Although the river is stocked with tens of thousands of young fish annually and is now clean enough to support them, 21 of the 22 weirs upstream from Teddington lock, where the tidal flow ceases, need fish passes if any but salmonid super-athletes are to surmount them on their return from the sea. (The exception is Penton Hook weir, near Staines.)

Salmon ladders do not come cheap: dams have to be built, divers sent down,

and a fish pass like that opened yesterday will cost between £20,000 and £40,000 to install. Five years ago a group of individuals formed the Thames Salmon Trust to seek funds from the business world. Their success in persuading blue-chip companies has been remarkable, and yesterday two sister oil companies, Chevron UK and Gulf Oil, funded the farthest upstream pass at Mapledurham above Reading.

The water gurgled down the channel; Lord Crickhowell unveiled a plaque and made a short speech. There was a boat trip and a lunch. It was hardly world-shaking, yet for those involved in the enterprise it was profound, not least for the aptly named Sir Hugh Fish, who began the whole enterprise when chief executive of the former Thames Water Authority between 1978 and 1984.

As sewage works were phased out, the river quality improved dramatically. Sir Hugh believed that salmon could return and began the restocking process in 1979.



Consumer group turns spotlight on car safety

By DAVID YOUNG

DETAILS of road accident injuries should be published by insurance companies so that car buyers can compare the safety of different makes and models, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. It has also asked the transport department to include more details in its reports on car accident statistics.

Sue Leggate, editor of the association's magazine *Which?*, said: "The more consumers insist on buying safer cars,

the more manufacturers will compete on safety, and the greater protection consumers will enjoy."

The latest issue of *Which?* describes safety inspections on 171 cars. The Vauxhall Nova and Cavalier were rated highest in their categories, the Volvo 360 was top in a third. In the fourth, the Vauxhall Carlton Estate, the BMW 520 and Saab 9000 shared the lead.

Which? says that the most urgent priorities for change are more head and

face protection for the driver, improvements to the knee-impact-area beneath dashboards, better side-impact protection and improved head restraints.

Contact-lens wearers could save more than £1 a week by changing the brand of care solution they use, according to another survey by *Which?* The magazine also suggests that supermarkets should be allowed to sell contact-lens cleaning products, at present available only from opticians and chemists.

Labour shortlists may ban all men

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR intends to give constituency parties the power to ban men from standing for Parliament to help to fulfil its pledge to ensure that half of its MPs by the year 2000 are women.

Rule changes proposed by the party's national executive committee will allow the local party to decide to have an all-

female shortlist when picking a parliamentary candidate. The party will also abandon the principle of keeping selection of new candidates open to all comers. Instead a central pool of candidates, with a built-in quota requiring at least half to be women, is suggested from which constituency parties must make a choice.

Of 204 Labour MPs, 24 are women and only two have been selected to contest Labour seats at the next election. The party has picked 129 women candidates, compared with 93 in the 1987 election.

The rule changes will go to the party conference this month. Many delegates, however, will demand more extreme methods to speed up the influx of women MPs. Eleven resolutions call for mandatory women-only shortlists whenever a Labour MP retires which would mean no new Labour men coming into the Commons unless they won seats from other parties.

After a conference decision last year to achieve equality within ten years of three general elections, Labour offered a set of options to the party's organisations. The results, disclosed to *The Times*, show that 71 per cent of constituency parties and 88 per cent of local branches who replied want the right to have all-women shortlists. However, 73 per cent of constituencies and 71 per cent of branches disliked the idea of party HQ dictating that they must pick a woman candidate.

The survey also found that 91 per cent of constituency parties and 81 per cent of local branches want to retain the rule of including at least one woman on each shortlist. Jo Richardson, Labour's spokeswoman for women, said yesterday she favoured all-women shortlists whenever Labour MPs retire and women candidates at all by-elections.



Richardson: in favour of listing only women

Straw derides private school inspectors

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

GOVERNMENT plans to let companies compete with local inspectors employed by the education department and local authorities will favour the heads of poor schools and lead to lower standards, Labour said yesterday.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Heads and governors of schools in dodgy circumstances will look around for inspectors who will come up with the answers they want, and, as a result, the rights of parents and children will be undermined."

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has outlined plans to let schools hire their inspectors, including Her Maj-

esty's Inspectors of Schools, local inspectors and teams set up by private groups approved by the department. Detailed proposals, costing £75 million, will be announced at the end of the month.

Mr Straw said that inspection teams would be formed by management consultants, former inspectors and teachers more concerned with earning a "lucrative living" than with telling the truth about schools.

Last night, Mr Clarke said: "Simple, clear reports will be supplied to every parent, bringing far more information on the quality of local schools."

Going to college, pages 33-35

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NATIONAL PARTY

Delegates applaud de Klerk plans to contain black rule

From GAVIN BELL IN BLOEMFONTEIN

AFTER singing patriotic songs evocative of their racist past, stalwarts of South Africa's ruling white elite sat down in a packed conference hall yesterday to consider how best to share power with the black majority.

The meeting was a remarkable watershed in the history of the National party, which has presided over four decades of apartheid with absolute authority. But judging by the mood of its federal congress, only the fifth since 1948, most loyalists are prepared to swim with the new tide — providing that dams are constructed to contain the flood of black nationalism.

Urged by party banners to "build a nation", the delegates cheered President de Klerk when he announced that racism had been expunged from their party. They cheered again when he welcomed defectors from the Coloured Labour party to National party ranks. They applauded loudest of all when he assured them that they would play a decisive role in post-apartheid politics, and in the end they

gave him a standing ovation. Their euphoria may be premature, as the African National Congress and others are unhappy about safeguards for racial minorities which Mr de Klerk insists must be written into a new constitution. Provisions weighted in favour of home owners, lessees and ratepayers at city council level are particularly controversial. It is proposed that this privileged category elects half the city councillors, the rest being elected by a common voters roll.

Responding to ANC criticism, Mr de Klerk said that the idea was not new and was practised in Australia. His government was "promoting home ownership among all population groups, so it was untrue that the proposal had any hidden racial motive."

Whether such convoluted attempts to safeguard minority privileges at community level will survive forthcoming negotiations with the ANC and other political groups remain to be seen. They are likely to find favour among middle-class whites, Indians

and Coloureds, but the ANC view is that they violate the principles of multiparty democracy. Saki Macozoma, of the ANC, described the plan as a "recipe for disaster" and a "cynical attempt to preserve white supremacy."

Tony Leon, of the Democratic party, considers the National party proposals to be the best to emerge so far. But he added: "Every past government attempt at power-sharing has died, unmentioned, in the shallow grave of deception." Albertus Viljoen, a burly farmer from the northern Cape, is aware of the problem. During an interval in the congress, he confided: "I think this is a good plan, the problem now is to sell it. We have to negotiate and work together, it is the only way. My only fear is we haven't got enough time, we have to get this thing off the ground as fast as possible."

Alex Anthony, a Coloured teacher from Cape Town, expressed similar sentiments in harmony with his newly acquired National party role. "When the ANC speaks of nationalism, they mean black nationalism. At the moment, the National party offers the best solution for South Africa. The fact that they are not seeking power alone, that they want to share power, gives me confidence."

According to Stephen Ferreira, who owns petrol stations in the northern Transvaal, younger members of the party believe that the emphasis on minority rights is misguided. Mr Ferreira, aged 29, said: "I think they are a waste of time and energy, it's as if we are still being pulled by little strings of apartheid. It would be much better to go for broad alliances, let's talk to others about what we have got in common, and get people to vote for us."

"At the end of the day these checks and balances will lose us support, and I don't think they'll survive the negotiations process anyway," Mr Ferreira said. Younger members would be making such liberal views known when the proposals come before provincial congresses for ratification. Nevertheless, optimism prevailed as delegates discussed their brave new world in spring sunshine outside Bloemfontein town hall, under the curious eyes of black construction workers on an adjacent building. *Business Day*, a financial newspaper, added a sober note: "Majority rule is coming, and cannot be evaded by constitutional or electoral trickery... the National party can give no guarantees to its supporters that its objectives will be achieved."

Power-sharing formula, page 1
Leading article, page 17



Black and white vision: President de Klerk opening the federal congress of his National party in Bloemfontein, where he presented a constitutional framework that would give blacks the vote but deny outright power to any one group

VOTING RIGHTS

Minorities to be protected

Johannesburg — The following is a summary of the key points in President de Klerk's constitutional proposal under which the franchise would be extended to blacks.

□ Voting: All citizens would have equal voting rights in national elections. At present, whites, Asians and people of mixed race vote for racially segregated houses of the tricameral parliament. The 30-million black majority has no representation at national level.

□ National government: The presidency would be replaced by an executive council of three or five people that could include members of opposition parties. The cabinet would have posts reserved for opposition members.

There would be two houses of parliament and both would be elected by members of all races. Legislation would be passed by a simple majority in both houses.

□ White veto: Constitutional changes would require a two-thirds majority, and the upper chamber of the parliament would have special powers over legislation involving minorities. Seats for city and town councils might be equally divided between a vote of all residents and a vote of property-owners.

These provisions, along with the reservation of posts for opposition parties, would favour whites and other minorities. Critics say that Mr de Klerk is trying to preserve

white privilege. The president argues that the racial and cultural diversity of South Africa calls for consensus politics rather than a winner-take-all formula.

□ Decentralisation of power: Mr de Klerk wants to move power away from the central government to local authorities. Critics say this would allow white areas to retain special privileges. The African National Congress says a strong national government is necessary in order to redress inequities created by apartheid and centuries of white domination.

□ Deadline: Mr de Klerk is not required to call an election until 1994, which is seen as the deadline for negotiating a new constitution. The president says that the new constitution must be negotiated with all opposition parties that have substantial support. (AP)

HUNGER STRIKERS

Detained Briton slips into coma

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A BRITON who is gravely ill in a Pretoria hospital after a prolonged hunger strike was reported yesterday to be slipping into a coma.

Henry Martin, aged 50, a bachelor originally from Nottingham, is one of three extreme right-wingers facing charges of murder and attempted murder after two bomb explosions in which one man was killed and at least 12 were injured. Yesterday was the 59th day on which Mr Martin had refused food.

Wim Cornelius, the lawyer who represents him and Adrian Maritz, who has not eaten for 52 days, said that Mr Martin's condition was deteriorating rapidly. Mr Maritz had developed tunnel vision and the condition of both men was very grave, he said. The third hunger striker, Lood van

Schalkwyk, who has refused food for 45 days, has had four recent heart attacks, according to his wife. He underwent a heart bypass operation a year ago.

President de Klerk turned down an appeal on Tuesday by Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, to grant the men indemnity on humanitarian grounds and also, the ANC leader said, because he believed that they had information about the involvement of South African security forces in acts of terror.

Addressing the federal congress of the National party in Bloemfontein yesterday, Mr de Klerk said: "We are deeply aware of our responsibility towards God and no decision which could involve human life is made lightly."

CHRONOLOGY

Decades of white dominance written off

Johannesburg — South Africa's white rulers, preparing for negotiations on a democratic system to replace apartheid, yesterday proposed a constitution offering blacks the vote for the first time.

Apartheid's key dates are:

□ 1948: The National party sweeps to victory on a separate development pledge.

□ 1950: Key laws are adopted to underpin apartheid — the four main race groups must live in separate areas, children must be registered by race at birth, sex between whites and other races is outlawed.

□ 1952: The pass book is introduced for blacks, enabling the control of residency and movement of labour.

□ 1960: Sixty-nine people are killed during a pass book protest at Sharpeville. The government bans the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress.

□ 1961: South Africa becomes a republic and leaves the Commonwealth.

□ 1976: Countrywide anti-apartheid riots are triggered by police action against Soweto pupils objecting to Afrikaans as a medium of education. Transkei becomes the first independent homeland.

□ 1983: A new constitution is adopted, giving limited powers to Indians and Coloureds. United Democratic Front, an alliance of anti-apartheid organisations, is formed.

□ 1984: Anti-apartheid rioting erupts nationwide. The ban on sex and marriage between whites and other races is repealed.

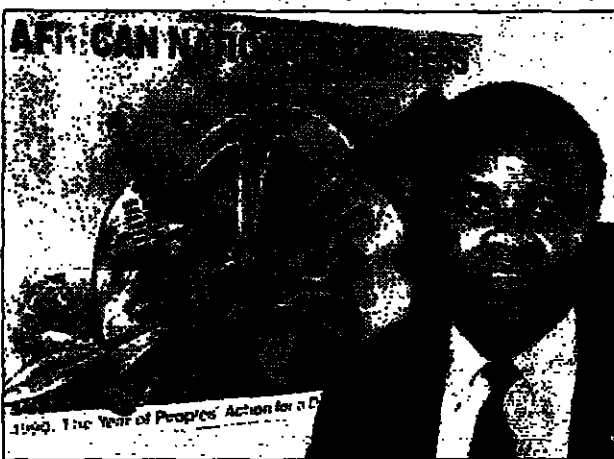
□ 1985: A partial state of emergency is imposed. Foreign disinvestment starts.

□ 1986: Pass laws scrapped.

□ 1989: President de Klerk pledges to scrap apartheid. The ANC and other anti-apartheid groups are unbanned. Nelson Mandela is freed. The enforcement of separate amenities is repealed.

□ June 1991: Parliament votes to repeal the Land Acts, Group Areas Acts and scrap the Population Registration Act. All laws underpinning the constitution are invalid.

□ July 30, 1991: A review of covert government projects is announced. All secret operations seen as biased are scrapped. (Reuter)



Macozoma: denouncing de Klerk's proposals as a cynical attempt to preserve white supremacy

BANK OF SCOTLAND BASE RATE

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Wednesday 4th September 1991 its Base Rate has been decreased from 11.0% per annum to 10.5% per annum.



INTEREST RATE CHANGE

AIB Bank announces that with effect from close of business on 4th September 1991 its Base Rate was reduced from 11% to 10.5% p.a.



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Three Month Reserve Account		
£50,000 +	10.125%	10.52%
£25,000-£49,999	9.875%	10.25%
£10,000-£24,999	9.50%	9.84%
Reserve Account for Personal Customers		
£50,000 +	9.125%	9.44%
£20,000-£49,999	8.625%	8.91%
£5,000-£19,999	8.125%	8.38%
Reserve Account for Businesses/Charities/Societies		
£100,000-£1 million	8.50%	8.78%
£25,000-£99,999	8.25%	8.51%
£10,000-£24,999	7.625%	7.85%
7 Day Notice Deposit Account	2.00%	2.01%

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Charity TESSA	9.00%	9.31%

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8.875%	£250,000 and above	9.17%
8.625%	£100,000 — £249,999	8.91%
8.00%	£25,000 — £99,999	8.24%
5.375%	£2,000 — £24,999	5.48%
	£500 — £1,999	

* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

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7.69%	Crown Reserve 3 Months' notice £25,000 and above	10.25%	10.65%
7.50%	£10,000 — £24,999	10.00%	10.38%
7.22%	£2,000 — £9,999	9.625%	9.98%
7.31%	Premium Reserve Instant Access £25,000 and above	9.75%	10.11%
7.13%	£10,000 — £24,999	9.50%	9.84%
6.84%	£2,000 — £9,999	9.125%	9.44%
5.91%	Special Reserve Instant Access £25,000 and above	7.875%	8.11%
5.53%	£10,000 — £24,999	7.375%	7.58%
5.44%	£2,000 — £9,999	7.25%	7.45%
5.06%	£500 — £1,999	6.75%	6.92%
5.25%	First Reserve Instant Access £1,000 and above	7.00%	7.19%
4.88%	£500 — £999	6.50%	6.66%
4.50%	£250 — £499	6.00%	6.14%
4.13%	£100 — £249	5.50%	5.61%
3.75%	£50 — £99	5.00%	5.09%
2.63%	World Savers (for Children)	3.50%	3.53%
4.88%	Investment Account# 6 Months' Notice#	6.50%	6.61%
4.78%	3 Months' Notice#	6.375%	6.48%
4.69%	Monthly Income Account#	6.25%	6.43%
2.63%	On Line Account#	3.50%	3.53%
2.06%	Bonus Saver Account#	2.75%	2.77%
1.13%	7 Day Notice Deposit Account#	1.50%	1.51%
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Yugoslav president threatens to resign over military coup

From ROGER BOYES
IN ZAGREB

PRESIDENT Mesic of Yugoslavia yesterday warned of a military coup and threatened to resign before the opening of Saturday's peace conference in The Hague unless the army returned to barracks and stopped attacking Croats.

The threat came as international pressure mounted on Belgrade, the Serbian leadership and the federal army to halt the fighting that has claimed more than 60 lives since the European Community ceasefire was signed at the weekend. Serbian irregular troops, helped by the Yugoslav army, have virtually cut off the eastern province of Slavonia from the rest of Croatia. Croatian forces were retreating along a motorway towards Zagreb last night after suffering heavy losses at Okucani, the Tanjug news agency reported.

Dr Mesic, who as chairman of the Yugoslav presidency is technically in command of the military, was obviously frustrated by the independent action, which he said was being co-ordinated by a handful of Serbian general staff officers. "If the army does not withdraw, I will announce to the world that there has been a military coup in Yugoslavia and resign," he said in Zagreb.

At least 12 villages and towns in Croatia were battlefields yesterday and as army units massed around Osijek, it was plain that there would be no early respite. "I refuse to let my presence on the presidency



legitimise what is in effect a military takeover," said Dr Mesic, a Croat. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, responded to pleas from Zagreb by warning Serbia that Bonn was on the verge of giving diplomatic recognition to Croatia.

The political tensions in Yugoslavia were obvious on Wednesday when Ante Markovic, the federal prime minister, rang Dr Mesic. The president's replies could be clearly heard through closed, reinforced doors. "Premier Markovic said that it would be easier for the army to stop shooting if Croatia were the first to disarm its national guard and reservists," Dr Mesic said. "But I told him that to disarm now, when a dozen of our towns are under attack, would be tantamount to surrender to the Chetniks."

The army claims it has been protecting the Serbian minority, and the Serbian Chetnik irregulars, from assault by the Croats. Increasingly, though, it has become obvious that the army was carrying out the brunt of the fighting on its own initiative to capture territory. The plan, it seems, is to let Croatia become independent only if it surrenders land to the Serbs.

Dr Mesic said: "My inter-

pretation of the European Community ceasefire agreement is that the army has to return immediately to barracks — unconditionally — and that when this happens the Croats will step down their national guard." Violence would probably continue but eventually the Chetniks would not be able to continue without "their shield, their financier and their arms supplier".

The Hague peace conference could achieve certain goals, Dr Mesic said. It could give international recognition to the six republics of Yugoslavia which could then be encouraged to enter an economic association. "But," said Dr Mesic, "I don't believe that Slobodan Milosevic [the Serbian leader] will accept this, even if he pretends to do so — Milosevic's regime cannot be maintained without a war." The priority was thus to state clearly that internal borders could not be changed by force.

Carrington's task, page 16
Diary, page 16



Home and away: a Serbian woman in Borovo Selo in eastern Croatia saying goodbye to her grandson who left with a group of refugees yesterday for Serbia. He is one of more than 150,000 people fleeing the fighting in Croatia

KGB files hold key to fate of diplomat

Moscow — *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the reformist newspaper, said yesterday that it had "every reason to believe" that "sensational documents" would be published in the next few days on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis before disappearing into the Soviet gulag.

Mr Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet forces in Hungary on April 7, 1945. There have been no satisfactory accounts of his whereabouts since. Up to now, the Soviet authorities have asserted that he died in a Moscow prison after a heart attack in 1947. Former inmates of Soviet prison camps have said that they saw him alive as recently as the 1980s.

The newspaper said that Vadim Bakatin, the new head of the KGB, told Swedish journalists that "three or four" documents on the case were still in the KGB files, contrary to what the organisation had claimed in 1989. It also reported that Mr Bakatin will meet the Swedish ambassador in Moscow to discuss the case. (AFP)

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Wartime record dogs Marchais

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS GEORGES Marchais survives to quell dissent in the French Communist party, a new book is seeking to revive the controversy surrounding his activities in Germany during the second world war. Its publication today comes as the party's secretary-general faces the most serious challenge since he took office 20 years ago.

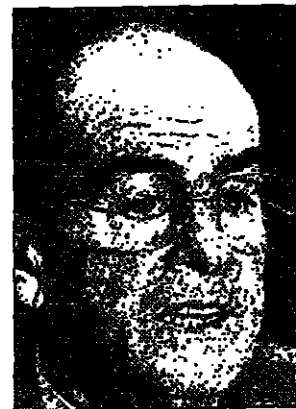
Although he seems certain to rout critics at the central committee meeting now going on in Paris, the book, written by a former party loyalist, could be harder to dismiss. According to the author of *Memoires d'Ex* — who calls himself "Mosco" — some senior figures in the French communist apparatus at the time M Marchais began

his rise to power believe there was a conspiracy to suppress his wartime record.

It was already common knowledge that M Marchais, an aero-engine mechanic, worked for the Germans near Paris after the fall of France, and was later employed in the Messerschmitt factory in Germany. M Marchais has always insisted that he was one of the French people deported for forced labour as opposed to the "voluntary workers" who willingly served the Germans.

The book asserts that a former party notable, Roger Garaudy, and three leading figures from the wartime communist resistance movement questioned M Marchais's credentials after he became deputy general-secretary in 1970. Another prominent activist claims to have sent a questionnaire to M Marchais when he applied for party membership about 40 years ago: it asked for specific details of his activities during the war.

According to the book, the Marchais file was somehow diverted away from the party's central record system. By his own account, M Marchais left Germany early in 1943 and never returned, but the book seeks to cast doubt on that claim.



Marchais: facing his toughest challenge

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THE BALTICS

Gorbachev draws up independence draft for breakaway states

FROM ANATOL LIEVIN IN VILNIUS

AS DOUGLAS Hogg yesterday became the first British minister to visit the Baltic states since their annexation in 1940, reports reached Vilnius that President Gorbachev had drafted a decree recognising their independence.

The decree is said to provide for the immediate establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet government and the Baltic states. The draft recognises the illegality of the Soviet annexations of 1940 and the legal continuity of Baltic independence. This has been a sticking point on the Soviet side because of worries that the Baltics would use it as a basis for future demands for reparations.

The document also recognises the territorial integrity of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia within their present frontiers. This would appear to deal a death blow to hopes of local communist leaderships in Russian and Polish border areas to use the threat of secession to extract concessions from the Baltic governments.

The draft decree states that it will come into force only when the Baltic states ratify the European Convention on Human Rights. This appears

intended to reassure the Russian minorities and to save a measure of Soviet face. Mr Gorbachev's decree would also give the Baltic governments added confidence in moving against communist-dominated local councils.

Mr Hogg, the junior Foreign Office minister, is spending today in Latvia and Estonia. He was followed to Vilnius yesterday by Laurent Fabius, president of the French parliament.

Mr Hogg said in Vilnius that the British government wished to act constructively over the approximately £112 million worth of Baltic gold reserves deposited in the Bank of England shortly before the Soviet invasion. In 1967 Britain handed over the gold to the Soviet Union in return for various concessions, including compensation for confiscated British property. It has been thought that gold could form part of Western-backed "currency stabilisation funds" to help introduction of new Baltic currencies.

Mr Hogg said that a British team would arrive soon in Lithuania to plan for the opening of a British embassy by the

beginning of next year. He said a Lithuanian team would visit London next week. The two sides would try to develop "valuable programmes" for British support, in particular the "know-how fund" for the training of local officials and businessmen.

● **Breslau:** The disintegration of the Soviet Union could not have come at a worse time for the European Commission (Tom Walker writes).

The commission had only just managed to get its tactics sorted out for the East and Central European countries, with agreements on "associate" membership for Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary under way. Austria had been given positive signals on its application for full membership, and other nations in the European Free Trade Association were being placated through the idea of the European Economic Area.

With the Soviet Union now in tatters, the commission has to bear the brunt of increasing political pressure to push ahead with widening. If Bulgaria and Romania can have association agreements, why not Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania also?



Priestly protest: religious leaders of the Orthodox church demonstrating in front of the Ukrainian parliament in Kiev where the Soviet flag flew for the last time yesterday. The clerics are demanding the restitution of their churches and cathedrals which were confiscated by the bolsheviks

THE UKRAINE

Crowds force change of flag

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE hammer and sickle flew for the last time over the Ukrainian parliament yesterday. A crowd of hundreds of people in the morning swelled into the thousands later in the day. To their loud demands, the flag was removed and the republic's new blue and cornfield coloured flag was hoisted.

The demonstrators, including miners from the western Ukraine, held aloft pictures of icons, bibles, Ukrainian national flags and placards depicting the now illegal Communist party as a wild-eyed devil. The parliament, dominated by former communists, voted twice to keep flying the Soviet flag. Twice the crowds surged through police barriers and forced parliamentary security guards to lock the building from the inside. "Get the Soviet flag down, send it back to Moscow where it belongs," the crowd chanted.

In the ensuing commotion the decision by the leader of the Communist party's parliamentary faction, Oleksandr Moroz, to admit the demise of his party and agree to its disbandment went almost unnoticed. A decision to sack Mikhail Potemkin, the republic's procurator general, for supporting the failed coup and to replace him with the candidate of Narodna Rada, the democratic bloc, was similarly overlooked.

As their demands were initially turned down, the chants of "traitors" and "junta" became increasingly audible inside the chamber. Taunted by Narodna Rada deputies, the former communists had little choice but to agree to the change of flag.

Finally Leonid Kravchuk, the leader of the republic, with an eye on winter's presidential election, announced he would resign unless the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag was hoisted instead.

The crowd outside, listening to the proceedings through a loudspeaker system, broke out in applause and started to sing the unofficial Ukrainian anthem.

CONGRESS

Highest legislative body fights for its existence

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Congress of Peoples Deputies was supposed to vote itself out of existence yesterday, leaving the Soviet republics free to form a new community of states. Instead, the Soviet Union's highest legislative body decided to make life as difficult as possible for all concerned.

Time was when the congress was obedient to the will of the chairman. Its size - 2,250 - and composition made it more tractable even than the standing parliament, the Supreme Soviet. Regardless of all the constitutional niceties, the congress is now in revolt above all because its own existence is at stake. The congress has most to lose of all remaining Soviet institutions if the constitutional changes proposed on Monday take effect. Nor has one of the

amendments proposed since changed this. The best option for the congress has been a suggestion that it remain in existence, but not be convened. Although continued salaries and privileges for deputies are promised, this seems to be not nearly enough for many of those who have tasted central power.

Possibly the chief underlying reason for the revolt stems from the composition of the congress. One-third of the deputies were directly elected by constituents. As they already have a popular mandate, they would probably have least difficulty of all under a different system.

Another third were also directly elected, but on a proportional system designed to give the so-called autonomous republics and regions a

bigger say than they would otherwise qualify for. Any new system of representation is bound to reduce this proportion of ethnic minority deputies - and they know it. The ethnic minorities could in the past be calculated to throw in their lot with the centre against the republics, for fear of Russian domination. Now that power increasingly rests with the republics, it is with their governments that the minorities must deal. Their days as bargaining chips of the centre are numbered.

Nearly all the autonomous republics and regions welcomed last month's attempted coup. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, was able to use this to quash the incipient demands of "autonomies" within Russia for independence. Their leaders therefore have an interest in making their voice heard as loudly as possible at the congress and undermining Mr Yeltsin and other republic leaders.

The other 750 deputies were not elected, but delegated from all-Union bodies, such as the Communist party and the official trade unions. When the congress was elected, more than two years ago, it offered a buttress to Mr Gorbachev against the unexpected. Now, the deputies and the president are on different sides. He wants to eliminate most of what was the Soviet centre; they are its embodiment.

But there is another reason that this congress is so difficult to handle. In the past, there has been a chairman and presidium that were united or knew how to hide their differences. The line was handed down to the delegation heads, who delivered the votes. This time, the presidium comprises mainly republic leaders and Mr Gorbachev. They are waging their own battles for their place in whatever succeeds the Soviet Union. Chairmanship has rotated; differing views are expressed from the platform and in delegations.

As each deputy seeks a way to save himself, discipline has broken down. That applies from top to bottom of what was once a foolproof voting machine for Mr Gorbachev.

Looser federation, page 1
Diary, page 16

THE COUP

Unhappy hero fights the sack

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

BORIS Gromov is a very unhappy man. Once lionised as the people's hero, he was standing yesterday in the smokery lobby of the Congress of Peoples Deputies, alone. He was almost unrecognisable, not only because of his dark civilian suit, but because of the downcast and contemplative gaze that has replaced his former assurance.

The retired general has more justification than most in the Soviet leadership for wondering where he went wrong. For the man who commanded the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and had embarked on a meteoric political career, the failed coup has destroyed any ambitions he might have had.

At the time of the coup, he was on holiday. He held the post of Soviet deputy minister of the interior - deputy, that is, to the late Boris Pugo, one of the leading lights of the putsch. After the coup he was sacked. He has now appealed direct to President Gorbachev to be reinstated. Technically, he is still "on holiday".

Yesterday, Mr Gromov



Gromov: "I said no. Absolutely no"

considered his situation. "For the past three years, I kept being accused of planning a coup, then, when it happened, it was nothing to do with me, but no one believed it." And on the night of August 18, when the coup committee summoned Anatoli Lukyanov and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, to join them, was General Gromov not summoned as well? "Yes, they called me, and they called me again on August 20, but I said no, absolutely no."

MEDIA

Democracy comes to TV news

FROM THOMAS GINSBERG OF ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

STAY tuned for more post-coup changes in Soviet media. Now television viewers can watch their favourite newscasters and vote for them, too.

The new broadcasting chief, stuck with a delicate choice between competing newscasters, is letting viewers decide who and what they will see on the national evening newscast. At stake is editorial control over the 45-minute programme, *Vremya* [Time], produced by the powerful state committee for radio and television, a government monopoly known as Gostelradio.

Competing are two "brigades" of journalists and producers, one a collection of glasnost-era mavericks, the other a mix of veterans who kept working during

last month's failed coup. The "new brigade" is running the show this week. The "old brigade" gets its chance next week.

The winner will be determined by taking into account viewers' letters and the results of opinion polls by two independent Soviet firms, says Aleksandr Zarayelian, a television producer and member of the new brigade. "This is a competition between journalists over their conception of the news and mass media," he said.

Yegor Yakovlev, former editor of the radical weekly *Moscow News*, was appointed head of Gostelradio after the failed coup. He announced the contest rather than make the choice himself, Mr Zarayelian said. Already, Mr Yakovlev

has drawn criticism for cancelling the popular *600 Seconds* programme from Leningrad, whose producer, Aleksandr Nevzorov, has been accused of fanning Russian nationalism. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian republic's president, also was criticised for shutting down six Communist party newspapers for supporting the coup.

The new brigade's members are known for their refusal to accept hardline control over the past year. Among them is Tatyana Mitkova, whose presentation and striking looks contrasted strongly with the previous generation of announcers. Miss Mitkova was the main newscaster on the maverick news programme *TSN* until last spring, when Leonid Krav-

chenko, the former Gostelradio chief cancelled it. He also cancelled the most radical prime-time programme, *Vzglyad* [Viewpoint], which was known for hard-hitting commentaries and investigative journalism.

The losers will be offered on-camera jobs without control over news content. Both brigades are using the same camera crews and production teams, Mr Zarayelian said. He said that the competition would mark a significant step away from the heavy-handed control exercised by previous Gostelradio chiefs. "The purpose is to reorganise a new, independent television agency - independent of the national government and the Russian government," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uncertain future for neutral forum

Accra - The 103 nations of the Non-Aligned Movement opened their first post-Cold War meeting here yesterday amid doubts about the future of the organisation, founded 30 years ago to balance the scales between communism and capitalism.

"The very life of the movement is being threatened," Nathan Shamuyarira, Zimbabwe's foreign minister, said when he arrived in the Ghanaian capital. The body represents nearly half of the world's population and two-thirds of United Nations members, but contributes only 8 per cent to global economic output.

The collapse of communism and the end of the Cold War brings into question the existence of the movement, which President Tito of Yugoslavia helped to found in 1961 as an independent forum to the world's two power blocs. (AP)

Popov aid call

Moscow - Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow, met Jacques Chirac, his Parisian counterpart, and called for Western aid for a transformed Soviet government. He said the West should not have supported the centre when it dominated the republics, but aid was now needed. (AFP)

Youth retreat

Moscow - The Communist Youth League is to meet in three weeks to consider disbanding itself, Tass reported. The end of the Komсомол, for decades the party's main organ for recruiting people aged 14 to 28, would signal that communism has no future in the Soviet Union. (AP)

Frontier decree

Moscow - Mircea Snegur, the Moldavian president, has put the republic's customs service and border guards under its control. He called for an agreement with the Soviet Union on the transfer of responsibility for its frontiers and negotiations with the Soviet customs administration on transferring property. (AFP)

Israeli welcome

Jerusalem - Israel, following the lead of its American ally, has recognised the independence of the three Baltic republics, David Levy, the foreign minister, said. Israel had responded cautiously to the recent upheaval in the Soviet Union so as not to jeopardise Soviet Jewish immigration. (Reuters)

Museum move

Moscow - The contents of the Lenin museum, near Red Square, will be moved to a new building next month, the Moscow city authorities announced. The city wants to regain control of the building, formerly the Moscow city hall, which was converted into the Lenin museum in 1936. (AFP)

Name restored

Moscow - The city in the Urals where Tsar Nicholas II and his family were murdered in July 1918 voted to drop its Soviet name, Sverdlovsk, in favour of Yekaterinburg, its original name. Tass said the Russian parliament has been asked to approve the decision, and this is likely. (Reuters)

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British protest raises hopes of freedom for jailed businessman

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

EXPECTATION grew yesterday that a Hong Kong resident jailed in China for helping political dissidents flee the country after the 1989 pro-democracy killings would be freed as a result of pressure from John Major.

British officials said that Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, had indicated during his talks with Mr Major that Luo Haixing, who is serving a five-year sentence, would be released on a medical pretext in the next few days. If Luo is freed, he will be the first political prisoner here to have his sentence reduced. Mr Major's delegation said they would not be celebrating until Luo is safely back at home in Hong Kong, but they appeared quietly confident.

Nearly 900 detainees have been released since 1989, but all were set free before being tried. The release of Luo would set a precedent for

other dissidents jailed for involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Diplomats say that Luo's release would prove that Mr Major was right to talk robustly to the Chinese in spite of the initial rebuff he received from Mr Li.

The case of the businessman, aged 42, has become a cause célèbre in Hong Kong, a symbol of what the colony fears could befall them after 1997. He was arrested in Canton in October 1989 for allegedly trying to help two dissidents, Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, to escape. After his trial, Luo wrote to his wife that he did not regret what he had done, and that he could not believe that the Canton court had sentenced him to such a long term.

Wang and Chen are serving 13-year sentences for allegedly masterminding the pro-democracy demonstrations. An

American congressional delegation led by Nancy Pelosi has been refused permission to see them. Ms Pelosi is the main sponsor of legislation that would make the extension of China's most favoured nation trading status conditional on improvements in human rights.

She told a press conference yesterday that China might lose the status next year if there was no progress in that area. "Complete revocation could carry. It's an election year, who's going to defend the Chinese? Not even the president."

Ms Pelosi and her delegation caused a stir by staging a brief protest in Tiananmen Square yesterday afternoon. Wearing corsages of white flowers as a sign of mourning, they stood in front of the memorial at the centre of the square, which became the headquarters of the student movement in 1989. They unfurled a banner which read in English and Chinese: "To Those Who Died For Democracy in China".

After saying a few words, the delegation placed their white flowers on the ground and walked off. The whole incident took no more than a minute, but a crowd gathered. As the delegation walked away, they were approached by policemen who gestured at them to leave at once.

Three American television crews were not so lucky, however: after being shoved and kicked by police, they were detained for 90 minutes. Diplomats believe that a brief protest in a public place, watched by Chinese people, may anger Peking more than Mr Major's expressions of concern.

The Chinese newspapers yesterday hailed Mr Major as "far-sighted" and proclaimed his visit as a success, but they did not mention his speech on human rights and the spread of democracy.

In a report on the prime minister's visit to the Great Wall, Xinhua, the official news agency described him in heroic terms: "The British prime minister was so happy to get to the Great Wall that he took steps with quick leaps, leaving his interpreter and correspondents far behind. Chris Moncrieff, the political editor of the British Press Association, was lucky for he followed the prime minister so closely that when he nearly lost his balance while walking down a 70-degree slope, the prime minister saved him with an embrace."



Snap-happy: John Major and his wife Norma take time off to be tourists, on the Great Wall of China, before leaving for Hong Kong yesterday. The prime minister pleased people in the colony by attacking Peking's human rights record

Major attacked China in spite of key advisers

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN HONG KONG

JOHN Major's attack on Peking's human rights record was undertaken against the advice of his senior advisers on China. Both Sir Peter Craddock, the prime minister's foreign affairs adviser who is a veteran of many missions to Peking, and Sir Robin McLaren, the ambassador in Peking, had counselled caution.

The prime minister was warned by officials that if he went ahead with his outspoken comments "the shutters would come down". The ambassador expressed his scepticism over the exercise of issuing lists of dissidents, whom the British would like to see released from jail.

But the prime minister, quoting to the Chinese authorities a letter from Labour MP Bob Parry, which he believed carried a cross-party message for the Peking regime, and making use of names supplied by Amnesty International, went ahead. Mr Major's stand has been well received in Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese control in 1997 and where there might have been fears of a Chinese backlash.

Arriving in Hong Kong yesterday, Mr Major said that he had made his Peking trip for Hong Kong's sake so as to ensure the construction and viability of the new multi-billion pound airport, the colony badly and to revive the work of the Joint Liaison Group, working out the arrangements for the handover of Hong Kong.

Today, Mr Major plans to brief members of the colony's executive council in detail on his Peking talks and on his efforts to get President Bush to understand the magnitude of the problem of the Vietnamese boat people stranded in refugee camps in Hong Kong. He is also prepared to consider calls for an increase in the proportion of the directly-elected members of the 60-strong legislative council beyond the one-third proposed for 1995, the last election before the Chinese takeover. Colleagues say that

he is "temperamentally happy" to move towards a great injection of democracy.

Although this could once again put him in minor conflict with Foreign Office officials, Mr Major shares their view that there has to be only gradual movement on direct elections and that any attempt to have the whole council on an elected basis before 1997 would severely strain relations prior to the Chinese takeover.

The prime minister will today visit a housing development in Hong Kong and make a lunchtime speech to leading figures in the colony before returning overnight to London.

● **Manila** — The US Navy rescued 23 people from a Hong-Kong registered cargo vessel after huge waves forced its cargo of logs to shift. A spokesman at the Subic Bay naval base said authorities were asked by the Philippine coast guard for help in searching for the cargo vessel.

A navy search helicopter found the ship, about 170 miles west of Manila. It plucked seven crew members from the vessel and transferred them to Subic. (AP)

Palestinians split over peace talks

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE Palestinians are approaching a critical period for Middle East policy more divided and demoralised than at any time in recent history.

In a final attempt to patch up differences, a meeting of the Palestine National Council, the 450-member parliament in exile, has been scheduled in Algeria later this month. But at a round of preparatory meetings due to open in Tunis, hardliners opposed to any Palestinian participation in the proposed United States and Soviet-sponsored peace conference, may press for a delay in summoning the council, the highest legislative and executive body of the movement.

The council has the authority to decide for the Palestinian leadership what decision should be taken about participation in the so-called peace conference. Salim Zaoun, deputy speaker of the council, said. This week, Soviet officials have made known that the upheavals at home are not expected to affect conference plans. James Baker, the American Secretary of State, will begin his seventh visit to the region next week to try to seal the terms of the conference. The main sticking point remains Israel's refusal to negotiate with Palestinians from east Jerusalem or with links to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but Mr Baker is expected to gain some leverage when Israel asks Washington, for housing loan guarantees to help settle Soviet émigrés.

Palestinian moderates are pushing for a compromise that would allow Palestinians a seat at the negotiating table while hardliners balk at Israel's insistence that no Palestinians from east Jerusalem take part and that there is no role for the PLO. Bassam Abu Sharif, a close aide to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was denounced when he predicted that the movement would compromise. "There is no obstacle big enough to prevent the Palestinians from attending," he claimed, before being disowned by the PLO's official spokesman.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the second and third largest groups inside the PLO, are both opposed to participation. "The US proposals contradict the requirements for a fair peace," the democratic front said.

International and Arab support for the Palestinian cause has been affected by Mr Arafat's support for Iraq during the Gulf war and he will come under scrutiny during the meeting. Many Arab backers have withdrawn financial support and members question the disastrous support for Baghdad.



Show stoppers: two Chinese Crested dogs at the Adelaide show, Australia. The dogs, hairless except for head tufts, had to be protected with sunburn lotion

Democrats field election team of also-rans

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THREE politicians known for their famous girl friends and a fourth whose alleged girl friends may be a political liability seem likely to enter the field of Democrat presidential candidates for 1992.

Senator Bob Kerry, best known outside Washington and Nebraska for his long friendship with the actress Debra Winger, was the subject of speculation on Capitol Hill yesterday as congressional aides reported that he would take up the challenge. Jerry Brown, the former California governor, who shared his "alternative mission" in the 1970s with rock star Linda Ronstadt, set up an exploratory committee this week to assess his chances.

Douglas Wilder, the governor of Virginia and a frequent companion of Patricia Kluge, the multimillionaire socialite and model, has been testing the waters in New Hampshire and has found

them "comfortably warm", according to an associate. For all three, who are unmarried, glamorous liaisons may bring a useful boost for the battle against President Bush.

However, for Bill Clinton, the married governor of Arkansas, such issues may be a key cause for second thoughts about a presidential bid. Media obsession with adultery defeated Gary Hart and may yet claim another victim.

Both Mr Clinton and Mr Wilder are on the right of the party. Mr Clinton, aged 45, is the most experienced state governor in the United States and boasts an impressive record of reform, particularly in education. He seized hold of the moderate Democratic Leadership Committee after the 1988 defeat and has used it to try to wrench control of the nominating process from liberal northeasterners whose recent candidates, Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale



Winger: long friendship with Senator Bob Kerry

and Michael Dukakis, have failed so badly elsewhere.

Mr Clinton is also an impressive speaker. He has an open disposition and has tried to deal with rumours about his private life by saying that he considers everyone to have a legitimate zone of privacy. He will appear at an important Democratic rally in Iowa tomorrow in an attempt to



Ronstadt: once shared a home with Jerry Brown

assess whether his political hopes are worth the pain of presidential scrutiny.

Mr Wilder has already been criticised in New Hampshire for being too conservative to win the nomination, for "fighting in national terms before he has won the Democratic activist support". But, as the leading black candidate, he is in a better position to

answer those charges than others.

The possible entry of Senator Kerry in the race has raised hopes that a battle between the party's left and right may be avoided. He has already drawn an enthusiastic response from Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York and the high priest of party traditionalists. He is a liberal who would be likely to run against the unpopular Washington institutions that his party dominates.

Jerry Brown is still considered little more than a joke by many in Washington. His flower-power past has not been forgotten. However, the strength of a Brown campaign would be in its message of opposition to the power of money and special interest groups over the election process. He will refuse all campaign contributions over \$100 (£39) — an act of self-denial that could gain him wide support after the savings and loan scandals.

Noriega's pilot turns state witness

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN MIAMI

THERE was bad news for General Manuel Noriega, the former leader of Panama, as his trial opened at the federal courthouse here yesterday.

His personal pilot, accused of flying drug money for the general, became the latest of his one-time associates to accept a plea bargain in return for testimony against him. Dressed in his four-star general's uniform and listening impassively through earphones to an interpreter, General Noriega learned that Daniel Miranda now stands a good chance of serving only 30 days in jail as a result of his guilty plea.

The general faces sentences totalling 125 years on drug conspiracy charges. Mr Miranda joined about 70 other witnesses — many of them convicted criminals — who have done similar deals, scheduled to give evidence against the general over the next two or three months.

The government alleges that General Noriega sold his services to the leaders of Colombia's Medellín cocaine cartel from 1982 to 1986. His defence is expected to centre on the fact that he was working in the United States and was a CIA agent. The government has admitted making payments of \$320,000 (£188,000) to the general.

Kuwaitis approve defence pact

London — Kuwait's cabinet is reported to have approved a defence pact with the United States under which American weapons will be stockpiled in the emirate and joint military exercises held (Michael Evans writes).

The agreement falls well short of Kuwait's original demands. America and Britain had made it clear there was no question of deploying permanent forces in Kuwait.

Rioters killed
Brussels — Zaire's embassy here, which had denied reports of deaths in anti-government rioting in Kinshasa this week, said that two people had died in the unrest. Four people had been injured, a spokesman said. (Reuters)

Rwanda battle
Nairobi — Rwanda said rebels had stepped up attacks in northern regions bordering Uganda in the run-up to a fresh peace plan at the weekend. Troops drove the Rwanda Patriotic Front rebels back into Uganda. (Reuters)

Mother guilty
Houston — A jury convicted Wanda Holloway, aged 37, of trying to hire a hitman to kill a neighbour she thought was blocking her daughter's chances of becoming a school cheer-leader. She now faces life in prison. (Reuters)

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Why men must not lose heart

MEN who start a heart disease prevention programme then stop run a greater risk of death than those who never start at all, a study by research workers at the university of Helsinki has found.

A group of 1,222 male business executives, all with at least one of the factors believed to increase the risk of heart disease, was divided in two, half receiving no treatment, the other subject to a programme that included changes in diet, drugs to reduce blood pressure, counselling about smoking and increased amounts of exercise.

Between 1975, when the trial began, and 1980, when it ended, the risk factors for the group that was treated fell, and fewer died of heart attacks. Within another five years, however, the differences between the groups had levelled off and deaths among the treated group soon exceeded those in the control group.

By 1989, 5.6 per cent of the treated group had died from heart disease, against 2.3 per cent of the untreated group. When deaths from all causes were counted, it was found that 10.9 per cent of the treated group had died, against 7.5 per cent of the untreated group.

Dr Timo Strandberg and his team, who report their findings in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, are at a loss to explain them. "The results may be peculiar to this highly selective population of middle-aged men," they conclude.

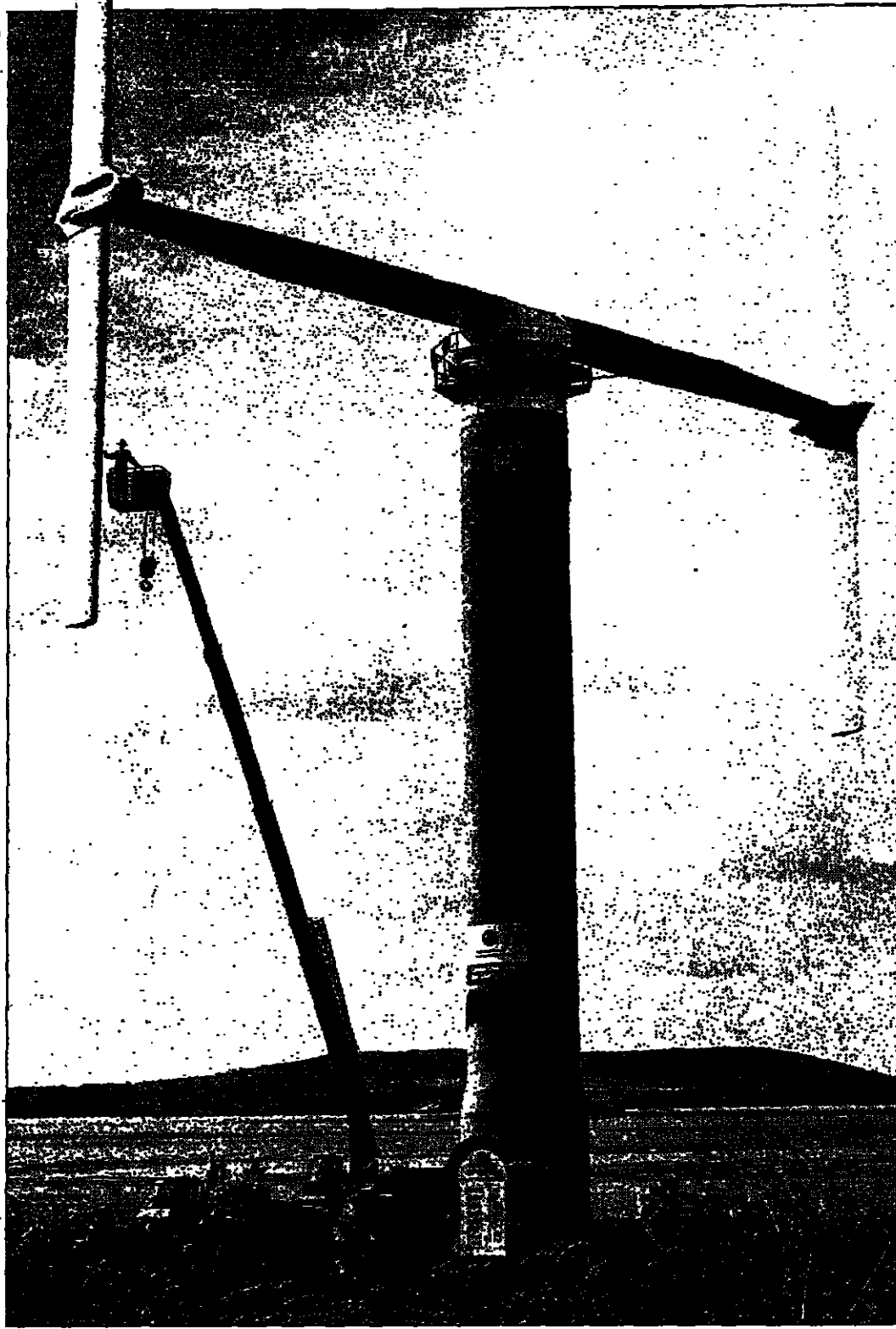
American experts were quick to deny the conclusion that heart-risk reduction programmes may be worthless or actually harmful. "If there is a message here, it is do not stop, not do not start," says Dr Stuart Rich, the chief of cardiology at the university of Illinois in Chicago.

The study is, however, another to show disappointing results from diet and behaviour modification in reducing deaths from heart disease. While other studies do show a reduction in heart deaths, in most there is no reduction in overall death rates. A study that actually shows increased death rates seems certain, as the journal comments in an accompanying editorial, to provoke "enlightening discussion and keep the field from becoming complacent".

NIGEL HAWKES

The government says it supports renewable energies but, as Nick Nuttall reports, the public want more action

Time Britain got the wind up



Turbocharged: a 140 foot high National Power wind turbine at Carmarthen Bay, Wales

Wind power could supply 10 per cent of Britain's electricity needs for the sacrifice of land equivalent to the size of the Isle of Wight, it was suggested yesterday.

Andrew Garrad, the chairman of the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA), says some people are under the misguided belief that generating significant amounts of electricity from wind would mean covering tracts of the countryside with turbines.

To generate the 27 terawatt hours needed to supply 10 per cent of Britain's electricity would require only 40 sq km of land. At present, the government's initiative to promote renewable forms of energy, a levy called the non-fossil fuel obligation (NFFO), excludes Scotland, a country with the highest, best and most cost-effective wind resource in Europe.

The government is coming under increasing pressure to encompass Scotland and Northern Ireland in the levy amid claims that the ban is illegal. If that happens, the amount of land required to meet the 10 per cent target would fall to just 25 sq km, Mr Garrad said. He was speaking as Greenpeace, the environmental pressure group, unveiled its campaign to have 10 per cent of the nation's electricity needs met from renewable supplies by 2000.

This, Greenpeace maintains, can be achieved through a mixture of wind power, small-scale hydroelectricity, wave energy, landfill gas-to-electricity schemes, biofuels and, possibly, solar cells.

At the same time, says Stewart Boyle, Greenpeace's energy policy director, 23 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, a pollutant linked with global warming, would be cut, as well as 160,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide and 100,000 tonnes of nitrogen oxide.

A public opinion survey, conducted by the British Market Research Bureau for Greenpeace and published yesterday, found strong support for renewables and the 10 per cent target. Of those questioned 80 per cent said they wanted a national target of between 5 and 10 per cent by 2000.

The survey also found that 67 per cent of the 1,085 adults asked would be prepared to pay the £7-a-year extra on electricity bills needed to reach the target.

The NFFO, a levy on customers' bills, subsidises nuclear energy to the tune of about £1.12 billion, or £17 a year per customer, whereas so-called true renewables receive only 40p a year per customer in support from the levy.

Only 4 per cent of those asked want the subsidy for nuclear power increased and 67 per cent want it cut or removed completely for nuclear power.

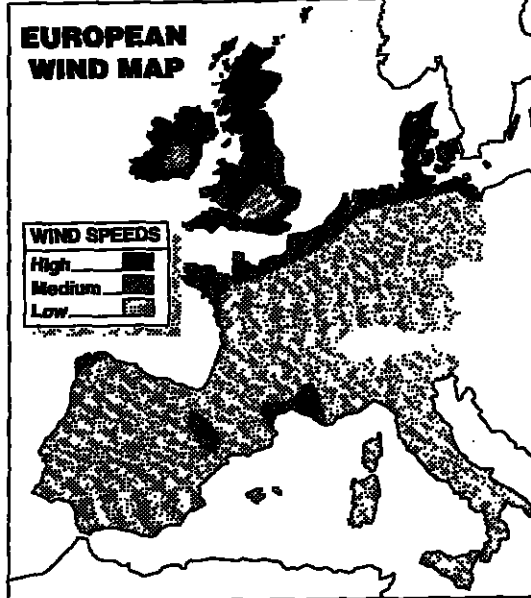
The findings are likely to increase pressure on John Wake-

nation's needs by the end of the century. This, Mr Boyle says, contrasts sharply with firm targets set by other countries. For wind power alone, Denmark has a goal of 1,200MW or 10 per cent of its electricity needs by 2005. Denmark has installed 250MW, compared with Britain's 5MW.

The target in Italy, which, like many European countries, has a less exploitable wind resource than Britain, is 600MW by the end of the decade. Germany has a target of 200MW by 1995, Greece 400MW by 2000, The Netherlands 1,000MW by 2000 and Spain 900MW by 1993. Even India and Egypt have more ambitious plans than Britain, Mr Boyle says.

Greenpeace and industrial groups involved in building wind turbines believe that Britain's less than ambitious targets with wind are damaging the chances of securing overseas exports of machines. The Danish wind turbine industry exported 500MW worth of wind machines between 1983 and 1988 valued at £450 million. Denmark is also pushing ahead with developing offshore wind schemes, whereas Britain's plans off the Norfolk coast have been dropped. Offshore wind projects are believed by many to be the right method because, unlike land-based ones, they do not encroach on beauty spots and national parks. Britain's offshore wind resource could be equivalent to half of the nation's electricity needs, Mr Garrad said. The Danes, who are testing a 7MW installation, had calculated that, although the capital costs of the project were twice those of an onshore scheme, the energy was only 40 per cent higher.

Supporters of renewables fear the government intends to phase out research support for renewables by 2000, which might be before offshore wind becomes viable. Mr Moyinhan denied yesterday that the government was being weak on promoting renewables. Existing programmes, he says, might lead to 20 per cent of the nation's needs being supplied from such sources by the first quarter of the next century.



ham, the energy secretary, and Colin Moyinhan, the minister responsible for renewables, to approve more renewable energy schemes this year.

Industry sources believe about 250 proposals have been made, of which 44 are for wind farms alone, producing a total of 267 megawatts (MW). The government has indicated it wants to approve only between 50MW and 100MW. A decision on the number of schemes to be approved is expected this month.

In the 1990 environment white paper, the government said it would "work towards" a target of 1,000MW of renewables, the equivalent of just 2 per cent of the

The home that thinks electric

People will soon be able to generate their own power, using spare energy, and sell it to the neighbours, Chris Partridge writes

Some householders could soon be generating their own power and supplying any electricity they do not need to local grids in competition with the national companies. They will be billed for the power they use and given a discount for unused energy passed on to the neighbours.

Two developments now on trial could make this possible. One is a central heating boiler that uses the heat that would otherwise be lost up the chimney to generate electricity. The other is a computer chip to make communication possible between every electrically powered device in the house.

Home-generated electricity is the aim of a new version of an invention originally made nearly 200 years ago, the Stirling engine. The engine has always been known for its silent operation and efficiency, but its complex structure means high maintenance costs.

Now a Swedish team led by Professor Stig Carlquist of Lund university has redesigned the Stirling engine to remove its weak points, and claims to have produced a sealed unit that can produce 3 kilowatts of electrical power for years without maintenance. The cost is also low. Professor Carlquist says that in mass production the unit could be sold for less than £1,000.

Stirling engines work by trapping a fixed amount of helium gas between a pair of pistons connected to a pair of opposing crankshafts. One end of the cylinder is heated and the other cooled.

As the pistons move, the gas is

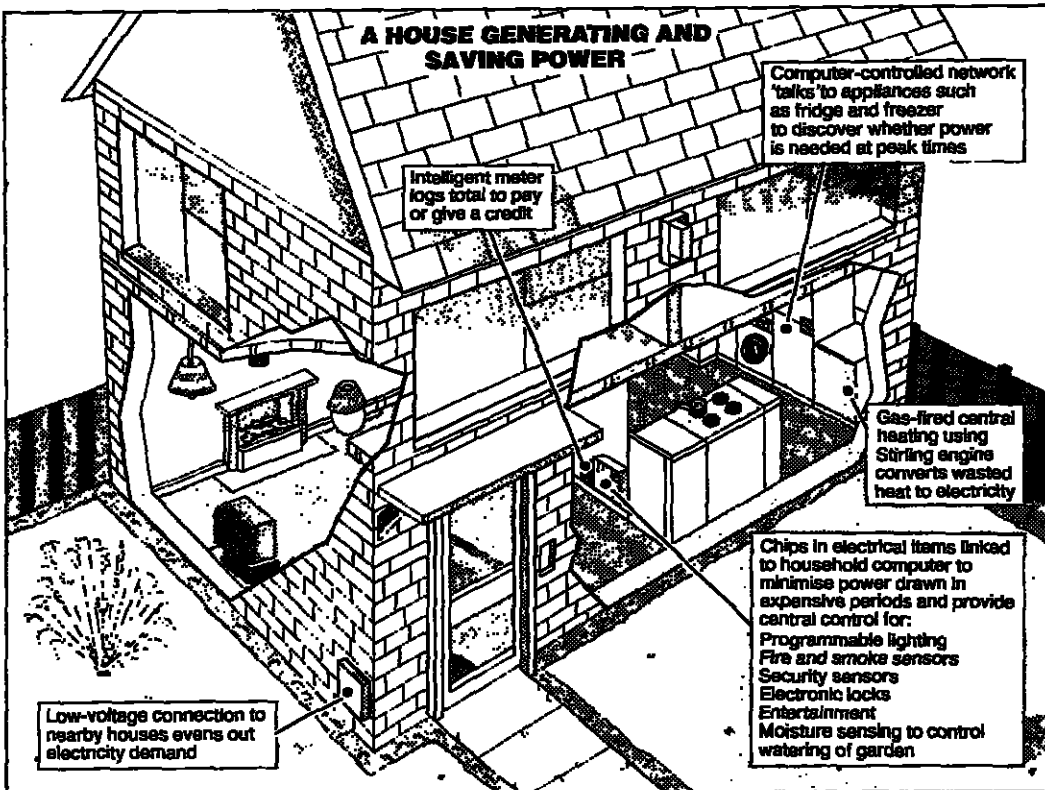
shuttled between the hot and cold end, expanding and contracting as it goes. This drives the output shafts, which in the Carlquist design drive electrical generators directly. Because the heat is supplied continuously and not in a series of explosions, the combustion is far cleaner than an internal combustion engine, making it a naturally "green" engine.

Professor Carlquist and his team have already proved their new Stirling designs in Sweden's latest submarines, where their ultra smooth operation is highly desirable.

Now a miniature version of the engine is to be tested by British Gas and the Midland Electricity Board, both of which see the potential for breaking into the monopoly on electricity generation enjoyed by the newly privatised National Power and PowerGen, either by selling and maintaining the units, or by offering householders a payment to install the unit instead of the central heating boiler, and selling the power to the local electricity company.

David Andrews, an energy consultant, whose company, Leventon-Cat, is promoting the Stirling engine in Britain, along with more conventional heating and power generation, sees the automated, power producing home as part of local power networks, controlled by a computer in every home.

"You could have low voltage links between six or a dozen houses, supplying electricity to them through an intelligent meter, which would also record any



power drawn, to settle up later," Mr Andrews says.

The classic problem of traditional electricity supply systems are the big peaks in demand, such as when everyone watching a cup final puts the kettle on at half-time. An intelligent network will avoid this by "asking" the other appliances whether they really need power at that time. The refrigerator and freezer, for example, may be able to say that half an hour without power would do no harm, thus getting over the peak. If even more power were needed, electricity could be drawn from the national grid.

Automated houses with everything controlled by computer have been the dream of the consumer electronics companies for years, but the dream has always been thwarted by the high cost of the communications equipment, and by the lack of agreement on any electronic standards to ensure that appliances can "speak" the same language.

One advance may come from Echelon, of Silicon Valley, California, started by Mike Markkula, the co-founder of Apple, which has produced a potentially universal chip that is not linked to any maker of consumer products.

The chip has been designed to link with computer-controlled machinery such as washing machines and video machines, and also to control simple devices such as immersion heaters and light bulbs.

The ultimate in computer control will happen if the generating companies introduce spot pricing. When electronic signals through the mains will announce the price of power for the next period, perhaps every 15 or 30 minutes. Household computers will then try to minimise power drawn during expensive periods, and try to supply energy at those times.

Exhaustive studies

SCIENTISTS at Amsterdam university are studying whether catalytic converters to clean car exhaust gases could be made from copper and chrome rather than expensive metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium. Freek Kapteyn, the associate professor of chemical engineering, says that his group expects to test the copper and chrome converter in a car by the end of this year. Catalytic converters, which can add between £200 and £400 to the price of a vehicle, will become compulsory on all new cars sold in European Community countries by 1993.

Cool comfort

THE sun that helps to turn homes into an oven in summer can now also be used to power the means to cool them. A solar air-conditioner, which uses a 6 sq yd panel to generate up to 500 watts of electricity, has been developed by Sanyo Electric. Initial samples cost £6,500 but should fall in price after mass-production begins next year, the company says.

Best of both

BRITISH homes wanting a personal computer have usually chosen between one intended primarily for business tasks such as word processing and a machine geared towards playing games. Now Amstrad has announced a machine that it claims offers the best of both worlds with a 286 chip, a large computer memory and a hard disc for serious applications as well as a high-resolution colour monitor, a joystick and sound for games.

players. The price, however, is a businesslike £1,000.

On the record

MATSUSHITA has announced a video library system that uses bar codes to index the contents of up to 99 video cassettes. The system will go on sale next month in Japan. The initial production will be 20,000 units a month. Matsushita, the biggest consumer electronics group in the world, says its researchers have found that Japanese families on average own about 50 video cassettes each but do not know what is recorded on 40 per cent of them.

Bearing down

THE climatic effect known as El Niño appears to be building up for a return, say American and Australian scientists. El Niño occurs when changes in atmospheric pressure trigger wind movements that draw rain-bearing clouds away from Australia and towards the Pacific. In recent months, snow has fallen in Chile's Atacama desert, rains have destroyed crops in eastern Ecuador and parts of Australia are suffering severe drought.

Aborted flight

THE second launch of an Ariane rocket carrying Star Wars experiments has been postponed for at least a month because of a technical problem. The trouble has been attributed to the encoder necessary to transmit rocket performance data to the ground. The first Ariane rocket, which was carrying secret experiments for the US Defense Department's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, veered sharply off course during launch on 20 August 20 and had to be destroyed before it could reach a populated area.

No veg, we're Neanderthal

NEANDERTHAL man fed almost exclusively on meat, French research workers have concluded after studying fragments of fossilised bone found in a cave in Marillac, in Charentes (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The Neanderthals were the dominant human species in western Europe between 130,000 and 40,000 years ago. That they were hunters has never been in doubt, because their remains are usually found in conjunction with animal bones. The amounts of plants, fruit and berries they ate has always been more difficult to calculate because they leave fewer traces.

By measuring the amounts of two stable isotopes, carbon-13 and

nitrogen-15, in fossilised bone, Andre Mariotti and Herve Bocherens of the Pierre and Marie Curie university in Paris, and Jean-Jacques Jaeger, of the university of Montpellier, have been able to show that Neanderthal man showed little interest in vegetables. His diet, they say in a study to be published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, was "almost exclusively carnivorous".

The method depends on the fact that the levels of these two isotopes in collagen, a principal constituent of bone, differs between carnivores and herbivores. In particular, the proportion of nitrogen-15 is higher in herbivores than in plants, and higher still in carnivores. The amounts of colla-

gen remaining in bones 40,000 years old is sufficient for analysis, and studies of animal bones showed that the ratios of the two isotopes had not changed with time. The abundance of the isotopes measured in the fossilised bones of herbivores such as the horse and wild ox and carnivores such as the wolf and fox found in the cave were the same as in the same species today.

Although the collagen from the human bones was not as well preserved as in the animals, it was nevertheless possible to conclude that Neanderthal man was very clearly a carnivore. Now the scientists are turning their attention to other extinct species, including the dinosaurs.



Food for thought: Raquel Welch in 2,000,000 BC

Solar flares light up science

A JAPANESE satellite called Yohkoh, which means sunbeam, was successfully launched from the Kagoshima space centre at Kyushu, Japan, last week, carrying a British instrument designed to study in unprecedented detail solar flares exploding on the Sun.

The craft will be the only research satellite in orbit monitoring and taking computer "pictures" of solar flares, which are sudden bursts of high energy X-rays and streams of charged particles. Some scientists suspect that the flares influence the weather on Earth and can disrupt communications, cause power-line failures, damage satellites and trigger auroras.

Solar flares have been blamed

for disrupting some television programmes broadcast on the Astra 1B satellite last Sunday and Monday.

The study is being conducted by the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College, London, the Science and Engineering Research Council's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

There is a growing scientific relationship between Japan and Britain in physics and space science. Last November, the £1.6 million Multi Angle Rotor Instrument (Marfi) was unveiled at the laboratory.

Marfi, which means truth in Japanese, is designed to interpret

the motion of atoms and molecules. In a new project, worth £7 million, RAL will provide a facility for Japanese research into the muon, an elementary particle.

Scientists at RAL and Heriot-Watt university, Edinburgh, await the launch next week of Discovery, the American space shuttle, on its mission to launch the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite.

The scientists have contributed the millimetre-wave radiometer, which is part of the satellite's microwave limb sounder. The sounder measures the distribution of pollutants and other chemicals in the ozone layer, including water vapour and, for the first, chlorine monoxide.

A stretch in time

Vanda Scaravelli claims that her brand of yoga can give the body a relaxing holiday.

Heather Kirby looks at the philosophy of the supple 83-year-old

Vanda Scaravelli is a remarkable woman who claims to have invented a new type of yoga. She calls it "a revolution" and says it can transform the lives of people who suffer from back pain, as well as alleviate stress, restore vitality, improve digestion, make people eat less, sleep better and breathe easier. It sounds too good to be true but Mrs Scaravelli, shown on this page, practises what she preaches every day. And she is 83.

Mrs Scaravelli took up yoga at the age of 40, and now teaches her own technique. She calls it, "awakening the spine" and has used the description as the title for her book on the method, "Awakening the Spine is not really yoga," she says. "I know the poses look like and are based on yoga, but my idea is much more simple: it is about gravity and breathing, an opening up of the spine which gives us an enormous wave of new energy."

Mrs Scaravelli's theory, with which the orthodox orthopaedic surgeon might not agree, is that there is a division at the centre of the spine, at the level of the fifth lumbar vertebra, where it moves simultaneously in two opposite directions: from the waist down towards the legs and feet which are pulled by gravity, and from the waist upwards, through the top of the head, lifting us up freely. Mrs Scaravelli believes that the downward pull of gravity enables us to stretch in the opposite direction and that it is this ability to elongate the spine which allows the body to release the tension between the vertebrae.

The way in which you breathe is crucial to Scaravelli yoga: you have to breathe "from the heels". The heel, she explains, plays an important part in yoga because it is our contact point with gravity so, as we breathe in deeply we should be aware of its vital role. Mrs Scaravelli says it is during the process of exhalation that the spine can stretch without effort.

"There is no age limit, one

can start at 70 or 80 years old and no damage will occur if movements originate from the spine," Mrs Scaravelli says. "People feel elated and it gives them comfort and encouragement to discover it is possible for them to control and modify their bodies. Also, you do not have to be fit already. It is not strenuous exercise and, in fact, if it is painful you must be doing something wrong. It is best to do it in the morning because the efforts stay with you for the rest of the day."

How soon you begin to feel the benefit of "awakening the

spine", depends on quality, the way you do the exercises, Mrs Scaravelli says. As for quantity: "Ideally you should spend more than half an hour and less than an hour. I do it every day because I enjoy it, it gives me pleasure and it helps me to work better."

Mrs Scaravelli, a widow, divides her time between her farm outside Florence and her daughter's home in Toronto. She is an accomplished pianist and her book reflects a poetic as well as a practical approach to healthy living.

She describes her ideas with captivating references to the ancient Egyptians, Goethe, Descartes, Newton, Buddha, Zen or Leonardo da Vinci and illustrates her themes with symbolic photographs which range from a little girl in a yellow dress playing with a hoola hoop, and effortlessly exercising her spine as she does so, to an eagle landing on a tree stump, its uplifted wings and extended legs demonstrating the dual movement she describes.

On a practical level she has plenty of advice for the care of the spine. On walking, she says, keep the back foot on the ground so that the back of the knee remains extended and open until the last moment before lifting the foot for the next step. When you work in the garden, weeding for instance, as you bend forward if possible keep your knees locked. When you wash dishes, remain with your stomach close to the sink and do not let it stick out. When you wait in a queue, keep your feet straight in front of you and your chin in. A hard bed is better for the joints, and particularly for the spine, she says. She suggests sleeping without a pillow so that the neck rests without being curved for hours at unnatural angles.

Yoga, which means union in Sanskrit, is not just for people who already have a serene temperament. But it does, says Mrs Scaravelli, who claims she used to be a fast driver, require a different approach. "People have all kinds of misconceptions about yoga. These exercises are not going to give us a higher perspective in a mystical or spiritual direction; they are simply refreshing the body, like a shower. But not are they like

a walk in the park because of that single, exceptional quality: the delight in meeting earth and sky at the same moment, of being aware of this mysterious phenomenon, gravity, which holds the miracle of our existence."

Twisting, stretching and moving around is pleasant and enjoyable, a "body holiday" as she calls it. "Anyone who has never done it before will discover that practice transforms them. They will need to eat less because they assimilate more and therefore there is a loss of unnecessary weight. They become more beautiful, their faces change, their walk gains in elasticity. Their way of standing will become steady and poised. Their legs become firmer and, as their toes

Vanda Scaravelli performs Urdhva Dhanurasana (above), a back bend against a wall



Yoga Nidrasana, described as the yoga sleeping pose

and feet spread out, they will get more stability. Chests expand, the muscles of the abdomen start to work, the head is lighter on the neck, like the corolla of a flower on its stem moving easily with flexibility while the wind blows. To watch these changing changes is amazing."

"To talk about old age as an impediment is an excuse to be lazy. I'm still teaching today and it is a pleasure which is still growing. A different life begins and the body expresses a happiness never felt before. These are not just words. It actually happens."

Awakening the Spine, by Vanda Scaravelli, is published by HarperCollins, price £10.99



Suptakurmasana (the tortoise pose), said to be restful

Why should a baby with a working mother be given formula milk?

Carry on feeding, naturally

A PROFESSOR of obstetrics said last week that working women should be given enough maternity leave to allow them to breastfeed their babies for at least three months. Why is there a widespread assumption that a

mother's return to work inevitably precludes breast-feeding?

After the birth of my son, financial constraints took me back to work full-time (as a secondary school teacher) when he was nine weeks old. Yet he has never swallowed even an ounce of formula baby milk.

The working mother who continues to breastfeed needs several essentials, among them a supportive child-minder or nanny. The other practical necessities are simple and inexpensive.

A mains or battery-powered breast pump (costing between £30 and £50) is essential. My electric model was neat, measuring about 4in x 3in x 2in and weighing just over 1lb. Since we are discussing working women pumping every day without fail, in a limited time at their workplace, we can leave out the hand pumps, which are suitable only for women who need them occasionally.

For the same reasons of speed and professionalism, a steam steriliser is essential. These cost about £35. Then, all you need are bottles that will freeze (the rectangular plastic type stack nicely); freezer storage bags made of non-toxic polythene; an insulated bag and ice-packs; and a supply of polythene "sandwich" bags.

Thereafter, all you need is a routine. Here was mine: 6am: Give baby first feed. Doze while he helps himself,

8am: As we leave home, pack the cool bag with the pump collection bottle, and screw-top storage bottles from steriliser, in individual disposable polythene bags. Collect the milk I pumped the previous evening from the fridge. Hand this to the childminder, for the next feed, along with the baby.

Lunchtime: Lock myself in a room, spread out *The Times* at the leader page, set

'The incalculable reward has been the wonderful experience of closeness'

out lunch and plug in pump, which is operated with one hand, while the other hand takes care of the food. Decant yield into the screw-top bottles. Maximum time required - 35 minutes.

After work: Pick up son and transfer milk from cool bag to childminder's fridge, to be used for next day's feed. At home in the ten minutes it takes to sterilise empty bottles brought home from childminder, make tea, find favourite biscuits, fold *Times* to crossword. Sit down at kitchen table to repeat process - usually a bit less milk by then, as I am more tired. Next feed between 7pm and 8pm, by

which time my supply has replenished itself. Last feed, between 11pm and midnight, takes him through to 6am from the age of seven weeks.

I pursued this routine until my son was nine months old and feeding well on almost everything else offered to him, and for some time after we ran on three feeds - early morning, after work and bedtime. One caveat relates to this idea of routine. The polythene storage bags and freezable bottles are for back-up stocks, produced at weekends or in the holidays and kept in the freezer (for up to six months) against the day when you have an awful time at work and nothing is forthcoming at lunchtime, or you have flu, or your child simply takes a notion to be extra-hungry and can call on the reserves in your freezer.

The time and effort involved in breastfeeding and pumping seem to have been substantially easier than remembering to buy tins and messing about with scoops. The incalculable reward has been the wonderful experience of trust and closeness with my son.

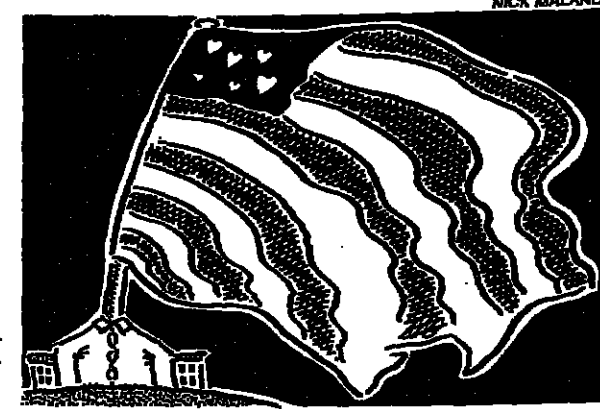
IRENE MCGRATH
The National Childbirth Trust (NCT), Alexandra House, Oldham Terrace, Acton, London, W3 6NH (081-992 3637) will give advice on breast-feeding. Recommended reading: *The Breast-feeding Guide for the Working Woman*, by Anne Price & Nancy Bamford (Century, 1984) is out of print, but look for it on your local NCT bookshelf.

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Sutcliffe

Changes at the top

WITH the cause of Raisa Gorbachev's illness, whether heart disease, hypertension, stroke or *crise de nerfs*, with or without hyperventilation, still undecided, American columnists have turned their diagnostic skills to deciding why the demagogue of President Bush has changed over the past few months. The White House has made some lame excuse that his crumpled and lacklustre performance in a recent television appearance was the result of nothing more than the use of an old, ill-fitting shirt.

Never having tried to bring thyrotoxicosis under control, the commentators underestimate its difficulties. Neither of the two non-surgical treatments are without problems, the use of drugs, whether carbimazole or propylthiouracil, is complicated by their side-effects; and radioactive iodine, which it is assumed was a method of treatment for the president, has a hit or miss element about it, for the dose needed for correct control varies widely, and unpredictably, from patient to patient. Radioactive iodine treatment can leave a patient with a thyroid that is still



over-active, or one that has been almost knocked out and therefore needs thyroxine supplements. Time is needed to find the right dose if any thyroxine is needed so that the metabolic rate may be stabilized and the patient's alertness assured. Whether drugs, or radioactive iodine, are used, the treatment is initially supplemented with a beta blocker, propranolol. In treatment with radioactive iodine propranolol is often used for some months, even longer if, as in Mr Bush's case, there was an irregular heart rate. Propranolol causes tired-

ness, lassitude and sleep disturbed by dreams. Although there may be political advantages in having a laid-back approach to life, the degree of detachment which could be produced with propranolol, which has a tranquillising action, could be mistaken for a lack of enthusiasm, even indifference. Mr Bush is unlikely to have any other serious illness; if he looks tired and drawn it is probably because he is nearer 70 than 60, has a demanding schedule, and has suffered because it has needed time, and drugs, to regulate his thyrotoxicosis.

A dab of danger?

IF THE green movement had been active when Van Gogh was painting, the world might have been deprived of the vivid yellows, oranges and reds which make his pictures so arresting. *The British Medical Journal* reports that there is a bill before the United States congress which proposes to outlaw the use of cadmium pigments. Artists oppose the bill. Cadmium, or greenockite, the mineral from which it can be obtained, has been used to produce pigments for painting for more than 2,000 years.

Recently, environmentalists have regarded cadmium levels as a measure of industrial pollution, as it is also used to manufacture solders and other metallic plating. Its medical use as an alternative to selenium, another mineral, in shampoos has been discontinued. In acute poisoning, if swallowed, it causes severe, even fatal,



gastroenteritis; if inhaled, as when soldering in a confined space, pulmonary congestion.

Chronic cadmium poisoning gives rise to symptoms with quaint, traditional names. Metal workers exposed to it can develop a yellow discoloration of their teeth (so-called "cadmium rings") or sore runny noses ("cadmium sniffles"). Cadmium accumulates in the kidneys and in time results in renal failure. Artists may not be suffering, but the environmentally-conscious congressmen claim they should sacrifice their art for the health of the community.

Bad news for beer bellies

THERE are, apparently, hard drinking communities where a beer belly is regarded as a sign of maturity and manhood. Although beer bellies may be acceptable to male colleagues, women have tended to regard them with distaste. Recent research, reported in *Pulse* magazine, shows that the female instincts are right and that the disadvantages of a fat-laden abdomen are not only aesthetic. Physically the drinker may not be the man he thinks, or claims, he is. Swedish scientists have demonstrated that men with beer bellies have low levels of testosterone; after supplementary injections with hormones the fat is redistributed into the more usual male pattern. It seems that a beer belly may be an outwardly visible sign of the hormonal disturbances caused by excessive alcohol which can result in genital atrophy, enlarged breasts and loss of libido.

While Yanayev was plotting, Vanity Fair tracked the man who was to overcome him.



For several months, I. D. Allman has been getting to know the real Boris Yeltsin, the man behind the hero. Allman discovers why for ordinary Russian people he is their symbol of hope.

Also this month, Dominick Dunne takes a fresh look at the Kennedys and their latest scandal.

And Gail Sheehy examines menopause, why many doctors choose to ignore it, and how their ignorance is affecting millions of women's lives.

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RELIEF WITHOUT RISK

Angels on the urban junkheap

Victoria Glendinning praises a witty and unsentimental account of family breakdown

Peter Carey won the Booker Prize in 1988 with *Oscar and Lucinda*. His new novel is shorter, braver, more painful, and even better. It touches on all the social and sexual pathology that hits the headlines — urban decay, delinquency, family breakdown, AIDS, child abuse — and remains witty and unpretentious.

The *Tax Inspector* is also a lament for the ruin of Sydney, one of the great cities of the world. Writing as a passionate insider, Carey documents the crassly insensitive motorways, the lost pathways, the mindless suburban sprawl, the corruption in high places and the desperate lives of one marginalised family. "You can read a city."

You can see who's winning and who's losing," says Jack Catchprice, developer and wheeler-dealer. Jack is, in the world's terms, winning. He's the only member of his family who is.

The Catchprices are losers. They run a seedy General Motors franchise and service station in the by-passed section of what was once a country town and is now a blighted "region" of 160,000 people. Grandfather Catchprice sold combine-harvesters and baling-twine to a farming community. But grandfather was instrumental in the changes that made the family redundant, "creatures at the end of an epoch."

To make the garage forecourt he poured concrete over good soil — like smothering a baby, says gran, now an intransigent octogenarian with a Marlboro stuck on her lip and mastectomy scars "like plastic sandwich wrappers". She lives on the premises, as do her children and grandchildren, in a warren of makeshift apartments, amid radiator hoses, fan belts, oil, grease

and petrol vapour. Their view is of two Esso petrol pumps and a cluster of used cars. Benny, aged 16, has his lair in the filthy, waterlogged cellar. The garage is utterly real, with its dirty stucco, its stinks and stains, shelves of spare parts and peeling plywood doors. It is also surreal — a dream factory.

"We can realise our dreams," insists Benny, delinquent and grossly disturbed, busy transforming himself into an angel by means of "self-actualisation" cassette tapes. Carey's characters survive on hope. Benny may well become an angel, though the odds are against it. His brother has opted for transcendence, too, and has become a Hare Krishna. His fat

46-year-old aunt, who runs the front office, is a country singer with high cowboy boots and her own backing group, and dreams of fame.

Carey does not patronise the Catchprices and makes it quite impossible for the reader to do so either. To say he has compassion implies some degree of condescension, and is an inadequate description of his unsentimental vision of them. Their idealised self-images and fantasies of escape and transformation, however funny or horrible, have status. "If we can't change we are dead," says successful, corrupt Jack Catchprice.

The family's weirdness would have remained hidden were it not for the nosiness of the tax inspector. She turns out to be an attractive, conscientious young woman who is heavily pregnant. Her efforts to get the Catchprices to open their books and reveal their business practices precipitates the revelation of other balance sheets and other practices. They have to show her, and each

THE TAX INSPECTOR

By Peter Carey

Faber, £14.95



An insider's view: Peter Carey finds patches of surrealism in the harsh reality of Sydney's decline

other, their secret lives. The tax inspector has her own story, but her point is her pregnancy. Benny and Jack both fall in love with her and her unborn, "fatherless" baby.

Male Catchprices have, down the generations, sexually abused their beloved children. The child victim becomes the monster father: "They do not let you be the two at once", though the victim and the monster are the same person.

Mothers can either turn a blind eye, as gran did ("I knew but I didn't believe"), or walk out, as Benny's mother did. Listening to

the Catchprices, which means listening to Peter Carey, you understand how it happens, and how it goes on, and why the child-victim does not speak out. As Benny's father says, thinking of his own father: "If it had all come out, how could they understand he loved us?" It is not a good kind of love. The Catchprices are damaged goods.

This novel ends in a long and terrifying sequence of such mental and physical violence that one hesitates to recommend it to the tenderhearted. It involves a birth

and a death in the smelly hell of Benny's cellar. Yet Carey, while demonstrating that he is an artist in horror, which we did not know, never loses touch with his own tenderness.

He has a Manichean belief that everyone, even crazed Benny, has "bits of angel" in him. To understand is not to forgive. It is, simply, to understand.

If you only have time to read one new novel this autumn, make it *The Tax Inspector*. I think, by the way, that the baby is going to be all right. For the moment.

Exposing the imagery

Adrian Dannatt

MAO II

By Don DeLillo

Jonathan Cape, £14.99

serve to put forward interconnected themes: the meaning of the written word in a visual culture, the nature of photography, the links between mass media and terrorism, the operations of fame and the cult of the individual, the power of the masses.

The title *Mao II* is taken from an Andy Warhol picture and Warhol and the media's reputation aesthetic is a major element. Three photographs divide the novel's sections, a Moonie mass wedding, the Hillsborough disaster and Ayatollah Khomeini's funeral, and each is described in turn. These set pieces are so well written as to force us to ponder the meaning of such images, our need for disasters, for leaders and celebrities, the parallels of shooting film and people, and the purpose of a work of art when instantly reproduced

everywhere.

DeLillo has no fear of such themes. He uses all the devices and pleasures of narrative fiction to deal with the ideas of the deconstructionists who are supposedly killing off just such novels. The results are stimulating rather than pretentious, a welcome revelation for British readers.

DeLillo is always addictively readable, his prose has a compulsive flow. Whether describing New York's traffic as "the thick choked blast of yellow metal" or such apparitions as "there's always something you're not supposed to see but it is a condition of growing up that you will see it", DeLillo keeps the reader entertained, entranced and informed.

AS a cult American novelist, it is only appropriate that Don DeLillo should choose a fellow writer as the centre of his latest novel. Such an old fashioned topic might seem a touch staid for DeLillo, whose books, such as *White Noise*, about a department of Hitler studies, and *Libra*, about the assassination of Kennedy, have established him as a smart, cruel and somewhat sinister chronicler of contemporary culture, post-modernist in everything but the traditional storytelling values of his prose. But Bill Gray, the hero of *Mao II* is no ordinary novelist. He has published only two slim books and has been in hiding from the world and the media ever since. He has made himself famous by refusing all the mechanisms of

celebrity, and his reputation depends upon never being interviewed or photographed. He is now trapped in his own mystery, unable to publish his last novel because it will break the mystique. Gray is obviously inspired by the notorious literary recluses, J.D. Salinger and Thomas Pynchon.

If the central plot is fairly simple — Gray decides finally to let his photograph be taken and subsequently becomes involved in an attempt to free a hostage in Beirut — and if the cast is small, the resultant book is far from simplistic. For the plot and characters all

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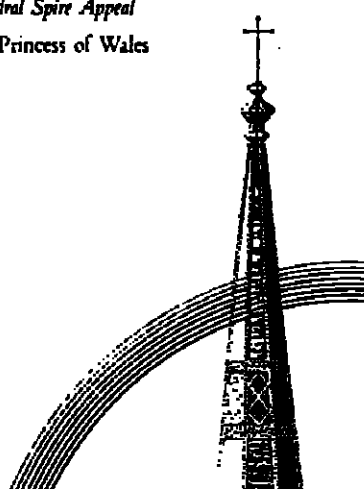
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Illustration: an Ardizzone drawing from Stig of the Dump

but by 1961 publishing paperbacks for children was turning into a tough commercial assignment, and Kaye Webb was the genius who reconciled the Graham standards with profitability.

The contents of the Anniversary Box ingeniously reflect the substance of these ideals. Chronologically, the box shows how Puffins continuously sought to represent in paperback the best of each generation's writing for children. (The earliest published text included here is Arthur Ransome's *Swallows*

ARRIVING as editor of Puffin Books in 1961, Kaye Webb took a tour to see how her charges were faring in the bookshops. None too well was the answer. The books shrank on the shelves in a haze of pastel gentility, in need of immediate resuscitation. Magenta and electric blue were called for, and, before long, Puffins took on a fairground iridescence.

I hope that the magenta which now, along with the cunning silhouette design by Jan Pienkowski, adorns the business-end of the Puffin Anniversary Box has been put there as a tribute to Kaye Webb's endlessly inventive enthusiasm. For although half of its ten-book cargo (from the *Worzel Gummidge* of 1941 to *The Silver Sword* of 1960) is drawn from the Puffin story books selected by the founding editor, Eleanor Graham, it is Kaye Webb who turned Puffin into a national institution whose 50 years deserve a celebration. This is not to denigrate Miss Graham, who set the standard to begin with,

Good guys on the case

Lisanne Radice

THE
DEATHBRINGERS/
DEATH BY INCHES
By Dell Shannon
Gollancz, £3.99 each
THE LAUGHING
POLICEMAN
By Maj Sjöwall & Per
Wahlöö
Gollancz, £3.99

In each of her books the spotlight moves from one detective to another, each presented as characters and personalities in their own right, who lead involved lives

which run parallel to the daily routine of the department.

Dell Shannon enjoyed describing unique or off-beat crimes, often portraying the murderer as an eccentric, led astray by childhood traumas, perhaps even with a heart of gold. This kind of murderer was also matched by Mendoza's homicide squad which consisted of detectives with kindly dispositions.

Both *The Death Bringers* and *Death by Inches* conform to the same pattern. In the former we have three baffling murders, one a random killing which nearly defeats Mendoza and his team, as well as a number of bank raids committed by a lone robber who appears mysteriously to vanish from the scene of the

crime. In the latter we are introduced to a new member of the squad, a brilliant negro, who is sent in to replace an officer killed in the bank raid described in the previous book. Mendoza once more gets out his crystal ball, has flashes of inspiration and comes to an unexpected conclusion.

Martin Beck (another Gollancz re-issue), Sjöwall and Wahlöö's hero, is a more subtle character than Mendoza. Although this, too, is a police procedural, the story centres around the strange murder of a busload of eight people, an apparently motiveless crime, which takes up the energies of Stockholm's entire homicide squad. The only coincidental element in the

lotti's Web, and the slapstick comedy of *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm*, where Norman Hunter's text is inseparable from Heath Robinson's illustrations.

Fair justice has been done to these pictures in the new reprint — which, alas, cannot be said of all the books in the box. Fine drawings by Edward Ardizzone for *Stig* and by Diana Stanley for *The Borrowers* have fared particularly badly, as have those by Garth Williams for the two American titles: *Charlotte's Web* and *Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House in the Big Woods*. Nevertheless, at a time when woe is being expressed about the decline in children's books, the box stands witness to how much good stuff from the past is still retrievable. I am only sorry that Penguin did not use a companion box, containing some of the books from that other genius — Noel Carrington, the inventor of Puffin Picture Books in 1940, who is really the founder of the feast.

killings is that one of Beck's young and ambitious detectives is also on the bus. As always with these authors, the interest lies as much in the unravelling of the plot as in the intricate interplay between the characters and in the delicate probing of the values of Swedish society.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Overheated and underwhelming

Geoff Brown reviews Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*, *Close My Eyes*, *Oscar* and *Welcome Home Roxy Carmichael*, plus *Bathroom Intimacies* and *Tetsuo: The Iron Man*

As Spike Lee tells the hero, "We got a big problem. Both of you've got jungle fever." So, indeed, has the entire film: with its volatile mixture of melodrama, diatribe and caricature, the temperature of *Jungle Fever* (18, Empire 2), Lee's fifth feature as the director, scriptwriter and actor, almost races off the director's chair.

Building on themes from *Do the Right Thing* and the real-life murder of a black teenager by white Brooklyn youths in 1989, Lee attempts a bitter portrait of rampant racism among New York's ethnic groups. The hero, Flipper Purify, an ambitious, happily married black architect from Harlem (Wesley Snipes), goes against his instincts and embarks on an after-hours affair with Angie, an Italian-American secretary from Bensonhurst, in Brooklyn (Annabella Sciorra). Hell breaks loose in all quarters. Angie's family — brawling males who treat her like a galley slave — bundle her onto the pavement. Flipper gets ejected from his Harlem brownstone, and finds little succour with his bible-thumping parents (already in a stew over Flipper's crack-ravaged brother). Both fugitives move to a sterile love nest in Greenwich Village. To add to the din, Anthony Quinn roars away as the father of Paulie, Angie's old boyfriend: a timid Italian café owner who risks beatings by dating a black customer.

Lee pops in for a few arch scenes as the hero's pal, offering homilies on a park bench. As director, though, he is always in evidence, driving the film forward with a surly energy few others can rival. But to what end? To convince as a portrait of inter-racial relationships, *Jungle Fever* needs more than fire and brimstone; it needs delicacy, moments of repose and characters like human beings.

An early shot of a delivery boy hurrying Flipper's morning paper onto his doorstep, as if Harlem were some picket-fenced suburb, already hints at unreality. The clouds steadily gather as Flipper and Angie enact their pat Hollywood romance and ethnic groups grind their noisy axes. The crack-ravaged brother's anti-drug melodrama belongs in another film.

At times Lee and his colleagues hit the right notes. Stevie Wonder's title song, matched to one of the smartest credit sequences for some time, begins proceedings with a

marvellous bounce. Paulie's café vibrates with chatter about sex, politics and race that seems ripped from life: throughout, Paulie — hesitant, uneducated, yearning for self-improvement — is beautifully played by John Turturro. But context is all, and the overheated style makes plot and viewer wilt.

If only Lee could learn to relax, forget his shoulder chips and apply his genuine talent to films about people, not caricatures or big issues. It might help if he cast off the mantle of America's Great Black Director for a year, and tackled something alien. I suggest *The Mayor of Castorbridge*.

When the writer Stephen Poliakoff last grabbed the director's megaphone in the 1987 *Hidden City*, the results were visually intriguing but dishevelled. *Close My Eyes* (18, Camden Plaza, Chelsea Cinema) marks a huge step forward. It may take time to knit together, but once Poliakoff reaches the central situation — a sister and brother falling headlong in love over one hot London summer — the film burns with an off-beat lustre and intensity rarely encountered in recent British cinema.

For all the passion Saskia Reeves (interviewed below) and Clive Owen inject into their scenes; incest is not Poliakoff's chief concern. Alert to social nuances and London's labyrinths, he uses the siblings' sultry encounters as a weapon for probing Britain's sexual fears, class fissures and greed: the legacy of the Eighties.

A downtrodden secretary at the start of the story, Reeves' character, Natalie, finds her feet by marrying Sinclair (Alan Rickman), an eccentric grand seigneur with a Home Counties palace aside the Thames, site of languid parties in golden sunlight. "It's like being inside a colour supplement," says brother Richard, a city planner with a conscience, who moves in the meretricious new London of towering atriums and skyscraper walls of reflecting glass.

The film's look is remarkable. Polish-born cameraman Witold Stok imbues even familiar settings with an eerie light that recreates them anew. London has never looked so mysterious, so surreal. Poliakoff's script keeps pace with the visual magic, enlivening scenes with neatly turned cameos (Richard's boss, for instance, dying of AIDS), and keeping the central triangle perpetually shifting.



Fugitives in a sterile love nest: Annabella Sciorra and Wesley Snipes are increasingly isolated by their affair in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*

These are characters that spring surprises: once the affair is underway we never expect Richard to become so besotted, or Sinclair to behave so gently. Kept on their toes by a script full of subtleties and terse comic phrasing, the players deliver excellent, itchy performances. British cinema may be half-strangled of funds: *Close My Eyes* shows it should never expire for lack of talent.

Oscar (PG, Warner West End), you may be sure, will never win one, unless the Academy invents an award for Most Misguided Comedy. Sylvester Stallone is perfectly entitled to move outside the grunts and biceps field; but filming a property carved from a dusty French boulevard farce is not the best way to ensure success. Mug-

ging and gesticulating madly, Stallone appears as "Snaps" Provolone, newly reformed Prohibition gangster, struggling with an impetuous accountant with claims on his daughter, mistaken identities and three separate bags containing jewellery, wads of banknotes and the maid's lingerie.

Nobody, least of all the director John Landis, seems to have told Stallone that he was simply not funny. Others raise the odd utter: Martin Ferrero and Harry Shearer, two fastidious tailors, provide a nimble double-act, while Tim Curry, hair sliced down the middle, summons the ghost of Ralph Lynn as a British elocution teacher. Hollywood old-timers are

sprinkled throughout: Eddie Brackeen, Don Ameche, even Yvonne De Carlo. But it is no good: *Oscar* remains a corpse.

Another botched job, *Welcome Home Roxy Carmichael* (12, Odeon Mezzanine) at least shows potential. Winona Ryder — dark eyes flashing, the voice deadpan — offers her usual "problem teenager" routine as a misfit in an Ohio town excited over a local celebrity's return visit. As a parody of small-town manners, Karen Leigh Hopkins' script makes some headway; but whenever characters face a personal crisis, it curls into the clumsiest whimsy. The unlucky director is Jim Abrahams, from the *Airplane!* team.

Finally, some foreign exotica. In Jaime Humberto Hermosillo's

tantilising *Bathroom Intimacies*, included in the Metro cinema's Latin-American Film Festival (tomorrow until September 19), the camera stoically observes a Mexican household's perversities from behind their bathroom mirror. In Shinya Tsukamoto's *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (18, ICA Cinema), an office worker turns into a metal monster with a rotating drill for a penis. The Mexican bathroom provides the more uplifting experience, though neither is a film to show to Aunt Edna.

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, plus Concerts in Birmingham and London
PAGE 20

CINEMA/CONCERT

Should not be aloud

On September 13, South Bank audiences can thrill, swoon and foot-tap to the National Philharmonic Orchestra playing an E.T. suite. Tara's theme from *Gone With the Wind*, and other "Music from the Movies". This week in the Festival Hall a large white screen hangs above the platform. Mountains of black speakers frame an array of black keyboards. Some dozen people, dressed in black, walk on and start playing patterned melodic snatches, grinding chord sequences and repeated arpeggios. On the screen appear images of canyons, deserts, and America's urban hell, caught by slow-motion, fast-motion, aerial and infrared photography. After roughly 90 minutes, the players — Philip Glass and his Ensemble — leave. End of "Koyaanisqatsi Live!"

A live performance of Glass's score to Godfrey Reggio's wordless 1983 ecological documentary *Koyaanisqatsi* does damaging things both to music and images. A concert performance can never recreate Kurt Munkacs's smooth soundtrack mix, although the same man stands at the controls: the balance is erratic, and some ingredients, like the sonorous bass who proclaims the Hopi Indian title word, need to be "electronically replicated", in the programme's coy phrase.

Yet a live show can jack up the volume to an extent no cinema manager would allow. When Glass's music plunges forward in the section accompanying images of crowds and traffic hurtling into madness, you reach out desperately for some knob to turn.

Glass works to induce a trance, but it is hard work losing consciousness when your ears hurt. The inflated sound does more than expose the music as a tapestry of hollow gestures; it also shines a spotlight on the hypocrisy of Reggio's film. Reggio seeks to pit nature's grandeur against the depredations of high technology. Glass works up a few quaint dissonances when pipelines and pylons start intruding, but the effort soon fades: with its tumultuous chords matched to images of gleaming skyscrapers and highways at night, this frequently beautiful but silly film ends up celebrating everything it means to deplore.

Reggio and Glass's 1988 sequel, *Powaqqatsi*, gets the same treatment tonight and tomorrow. Roll on Tara's theme.

GEOFF BROWN

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CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Versatile but single-minded

Saskia Reeves, the RSC actress who is one of the stars of *Close My Eyes* (reviewed above), talks to John Dugdale



Saskia Reeves in *Close My Eyes*: "I'm more interested in the people I play than in showing myself"

American over a cliff (Carol Churchill's *Leviathan*).

A period of cinema and television work followed, demonstrating a remarkable versatility. Though at her most riveting when depicting extreme emotions, as in the psychological drama *Children Crossing*, she proved equally assured in comedy, partnering Imelda Staunton in the Woody Allenish television play *Intonia and Jane*. She could, it seemed, be any age between 20 and 40, and take on any foreign or regional accent asked of her: play women on the verge of a nervous breakdown, or figures of great stillness and strength, such as the heroine in Thaddeus O'Sullivan's *December Bride*, her feature film debut.

The invitation to join the RSC class of '91, Adrian Noble's first company, came at the right moment. "After doing several tellys and be-

fore that a lot of modern writing on stage, I really thought it was about time I stretched some different muscles. It sounds stupid, but I wanted to become a classical actress — there's so much I need to learn about language and using my voice." Her Stratford portfolio includes parts in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, and the title role in Thomas Heywood's *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, opening at The Other Place in October.

Film and television are out of the question while she is a member of the RSC, and will remain so if, as is likely, she signs up for another year and there's only a three-week gap in January between the Stratford year and the London year, so it's really impossible. But I knew that I had work coming out this year, so I

wouldn't be completely beholden to this place."

One of those pre-purchase performances has already been seen on BBC 2, in the "talking heads" series *In My Defence*. Reeves played Philippa Monaghan, a young woman who terminated the life of her mother, a victim of motor neurone disease, at the latter's request. Level-headed critics brought out the words "sensational" and "mesmeric", struck by the radiant dignity the actress brought to a harrowing monologue.

W as she aware in making the programme that her performance would have such an impact? "Yes, I was. But I surprised myself. It was the only thing I've ever done that I didn't need to see to know that it worked. It was quite strange, because it's the first time I've felt 'that was different, where did that come from?'"

As a curious mixture of postgraduate college and professional shop window, the RSC traditionally opens up big and small screen opportunities. The roll of recent alumnae includes Juliet Stephenson, Frances Barber, Harriet Walter, Fiona Shaw, Imogen Stubbs and Janet McTeer. But Reeves' years on the theatrical fringe have instilled a wariness about being absorbed into the mainstream, accepting lucrative but unchallenging parts in television sitcoms or drama series. "I just wouldn't get the same satisfaction from saying those words. And I wouldn't want to be that public: I'm more interested in the people I play than in showing myself."

Blackadder was a sitcom I remind her, and it featured Miranda Richardson. "Yes, but what a sitcom! I suppose it depends on who you are working with. I would have loved to be in *Twin Peaks*, which was a series, and I would jump at the chance if Mike Leigh ever did a sitcom... or perhaps Ingmar Bergman."

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Unhappiest lot of all

Robert Reiner argues that community policing is an impossible dream

Britain's chief constables face a cruel paradox. The professional standards of the police have never been higher, yet public confidence in them is lower than at any time since their formative years in the 19th century. Surveys of public opinion have registered a haemorrhage of support and trust, especially in the past two scandal-racked years. What is most disturbing is that the decline in confidence is not confined to the young, male, urban underclass who have traditionally been in the vortex of conflict with the police (as the current rash of disturbances in Cardiff, Oxford and Birmingham has again shown). Questioning and criticism of the police is now almost axiomatic even among the educated middle class, formerly bastions of support for the thin blue line. Even the Conservative government appears less enamoured of its former pet public service.



James Anderson (top) and John Alderson: tough and tender strategies

Dixon of Dock Green and PC 49 were once totems of national pride, but the police are now perceived as more abusive and corrupt and less efficient than before, despite the highest ever pay. Chief constables are widely blamed, and many people hanker after a restoration of the pre-war "officer class".

How to remedy the loss of confidence has been hotly debated by chief constables. In the early 1980s, opinion divided between exponents of tough traditional policing (such as the former chief constable of Greater Manchester, James Anderson) and exponents of softer community policing (such as the former chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, John Alderson). Lord Scarman's 1981 report on the Brixton disorders was a synthesis of these ideas. It accepted the sad necessity of more militaristic policing when disorder occurs, but argued that preserving public tranquillity should have higher priority than law enforcement at any price. The key to this was said to be a sensitive approach to building better police-community relations to avert trouble.

Forward-looking police chiefs, led by Sir Kenneth Newman and Sir Peter Imbert at Scotland Yard, have championed these ideas. My book, *Chief Constables*, based on interviews with forty of them, shows that this philosophy, the orthodoxy among all but a few diehards, on a variety of fronts the professionalism of policing has been improved beyond recognition in the last decade. The education and training of officers at all levels has been transformed in quality and scope, and officers are much more strictly accountable to organisational superiors and central bodies such as the Home Office

and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Chief constables might be forgiven some puzzlement when they find that the medicine has not improved the patient's condition. Public support continues to plummet, though professionalism increases. The answer is that the conditions of success lie outside the power of the chief constables. For all the sophisticated approaches, Britain has become a more crime-ridden, disorderly and lawless society than at any time since the middle of the last century. We have indeed returned to Victorian values: to the dark under-belly of that age.

The government must take part of the blame. Its economic and social policies have expanded and demoralised the urban underclass, reversing a century-long process of social integration. The chief constables themselves recognise this, 75 per cent of them believing that social divisions have widened, and economic and racial differences become more pronounced. But more importantly, the police are suffering from a deeper cultural transformation. In their heyday, the police were what one historian described as "domestic missionaries", carrying the dominant moral values of the centre right through the social order.

One of the first British researchers on the police, Professor Michael Banton, particularly emphasised the quasi-sacred status of the police in Britain, contrasting it with the attitude that they are a regrettable necessity, which was usual in other countries.

In the three decades since Banton wrote, society has become ever more secularised, and the police, like many other national totems, have been demystified. In a world without an unquestioned core morality, the position of the police as an embodiment of authority is problematic. Officers cannot realistically aspire to the heroic status of the Dixon myth, despite the nostalgic hankering of many chief constables. The most they can aim for is pragmatic acceptance, such as the police command in Holland, Denmark and Sweden. They are more or less decent, honest and effective providers of what is irredeemably a dirty-work service, struggling with the emergencies of social conflict.

Like many other institutional elites, Britain's chief constables must struggle with the painful adjustment from the glories of an imperial past to the colder realities of a Euro-centred future.

Professor Robert Reiner's book *Chief Constables* is published today by OUP, £17.95.

Can he silence the Balkan guns?

The test of Lord Carrington's peace moves will be whether he can get the soldiers back to barracks, writes Roger Boyes

Lord Carrington will have to deploy some heavy diplomatic artillery at the peace conference on Yugoslavia this Saturday to match the thunder of the guns pounding Croatia. He will need all his chairmanly skills, for the Yugoslav crisis reflects a failure of leadership. The chief duel is being fought by mediocre men unable to transcend their tribal loyalties.

The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, a consummate power politician, still pretends to be fighting for an intact (Serb-dominated) federal Yugoslavia. His real aim, though, is the creation of a greater Serbia, which, by cutting away and absorbing Serb communities, would amputate Croatia.

The Croatian leader, President Franjo Tudjman, does not inspire confidence either. He sees the war as cultural: claiming Catholic Croatia, with its democratic and Habsburg traditions, is pitted against the rabid national communism of Orthodox Serbia.

In truth there has never been a democratic culture in Yugoslavia,

and the Croatian leader has stifled domestic criticism and built up a considerable personality cult. Even so, an impartial observer must report that he is plainly the victim of an aggressive Serbian-led war. The Yugoslav army has been trying to change the frontiers before the peace conference starts, so that Serbia comes to the table with a strong hand. In the past few months, Croatia has lost control of almost one third of its territory. Predictably, Croatia says that it will not cede any of this to Serbia.

So can Lord Carrington's peace conference in the Hague trade land for independence? If so, what kind of precedent will be set? If Yugoslavia is to be carved up, Bosnia will have to be dismantled — the Croats in Bosnia going to Croatia, the Serbs to Serbia. Albania would certainly call for the annexation of the Kosovo

Albanians, and the many claims on Macedonia would be reopened.

The clearest principle the conference can establish is that internal frontiers must not be changed by force. This would influence debate in the Soviet Union — where there are fears that Russia will develop Serbia-like ambitions towards its neighbours — and aid the stability of Europe. If Europe's frontiers are to be redrawn, it should be a long and careful process, quite separate from the turmoil in Yugoslavia.

So Lord Carrington's peace conference can then serve a limited purpose. From guaranteeing internal frontiers, it is a short step to acknowledging that each of Yugoslavia's constituent parts is a sovereign republic. That falls some way short of full diplomatic recognition of Slovenia and Croatia. But although recognition

would mean that United Nations peacekeeping troops could be called in to replace the impotent white uniformed European Community observers, it would seriously aggravate the crisis.

The first aim of the conference must be to get the army back to barracks. Yet the army and irregulars have shown themselves immune to Western pressure. Within hours of the signing of the European Community ceasefire last Sunday, the army was bombarding Croatian villages. But if means are not found to restrain the army, the talks will founder.

Lord Carrington needs also to clarify Western thoughts about Yugoslavia. Germany's foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, seems to be moving in an entirely different direction from the French. Germany is threatening to recognise the independence of

Croatia if Yugoslav army action continues, so pre-empting the peace conference and playing into the hands of xenophobic politicians in Belgrade. Recognising Croatia now would reduce the conference to an argument about how much land the Croats should surrender to the Serbs, rather than an orderly discussion about cultural autonomy.

Meanwhile the French still seem to believe in an intact Yugoslavia. Their unacknowledged assumption is that a prolonged peace would see the Serbian regime of Mr Milosevic collapse, to be replaced by a more democratic opposition. But this is too optimistic. There are genuine democrats in the Serbian opposition, but first and foremost they are nationalists.

Although there have been democratic elections in the key Yugoslav republic, there is no democratic discourse between the republics, and no democratic tradition. Lord Carrington faces a more daunting task than he ever did in Rhodesia.

Good health, fellow tipplers

A gallon a day keeps the doctor away.

Bernard Levin toasts some heartening news on drinking from New Zealand

Just listen to this, don't try to work out what I'm getting at — I'll do that for you in due course — just let the news hit you. The news is that if you knock back 36 drinks a week — fifty-six I tell you — you diminish your risk of heart disease by at least 40 per cent.

You can do the arithmetic: a dozen times over with a pocket calculator, a computer or an abacus, but the result is the same: eight snorts a day, day in day out, and the old ticker has a 40 per cent extra chance of going strong years after every member of the Band of Hope is kicking up the daisies.

Who says so? Well, the landlord of the Dog and Duck for a start, but I grant you that he may be *parti-pris*. From New Zealand however, come the results of scrupulous scientific study, carried out within the regulated purview of the School of Medicine of Auckland University. Here are some relevant figures.

The group studied 297 men and 72 women who had had, and survived, myocardial infarction (my mum died of that — but then, she drank practically nothing). They also called upon 525 men, together with 341 women, who had never been diagnosed as having heart disease. In addition, there was a group of 128 men and 30 women who had died of heart disease, matched with similar "controls", who were alive and had had no heart trouble.

The researchers then proceeded to match all the groups with their alcohol intake: the categories were drinkers, ex-drinkers and never-drinkers. And from all the groups, the message was the same: regular and reasonably substantial drinking of alcohol — whether in the form of beer, wine or spirits — is good for your heart.

The drinkers fared best in all categories; next best came those who had been drinkers but given up, and last were the poor devils who never touched the stuff and were punished for their teetotalism with the highest chance of clutching their chests, emitting a horrid moan and falling — kerplunk — ever so dead.

The New Zealand team were at pains to exclude other factors which might skew the results; when a British researcher, Professor Shapiro, attacked the drink survey as flawed, the New Zealanders set up a survey specifically to examine his claims. They are clearly confident that their findings are correct.

Mind you, I have always had a feeling that a daily snifter or two would be a pretty good protection against practically anything, not just heart attacks. Take me, for instance: it didn't need a guarantee of long life for me to test the heart theory; rarely does a day go by without my brisking up my tonials with a cool glass of champagne of a respectable *marque*, and do I look like a man who has just dropped dead of heart-failure? (*A fortiori*, do I look like a teetotaler?)

What even I could not have guessed at, however, was the lavish hand with which the optimum amount of the intake was laid down. Beer-drinkers are urged to down 28 pints a week if they value their hearts; those who prefer spirits should line up for the same number of doubles; and we wine-bibbers score tremendously with no less than a bottle of wine a day.

I am all for the merry-mercy, and the sound of popping corks makes fine music, but I have to say that if I downed a bottle of champagne every day of the year, an odd note might in time creep into my published comments on the world and its doings. Yet if I drink less than the stipulated measure I lay myself open to immediate death by heart-failure.

We have a dilemma here: either a permanent state of the trembles or a wonky heart. It's enough to drive you to smoking. But no worry, the ising is going to come up with a rigidly tested conclusion that smoking is good for you. It isn't; but then nor are the bullying



and hectoring that seem always to go with it.

The betting chain Ladbroke's not long ago seemed to be saying to its staff that smoking was to be banned in its betting-shops. I say "seemed", because it was not at all clear, no formal or written notification was given to the staff, and apparently (again, the staff had to guess) the policy would not be the same in all of Ladbroke's betting-shops, nor would it be the same in all the regions.

Ladbroke's dithered, changed its mind and contradicted itself. Some members of the staff were told that they would be forbidden to smoke at the counters, others that they were prohibited from smoking anywhere on the premises, others again that in betting-shops with "bandit screens" they could smoke. Still no formal or written instructions were given. (Some 59 per cent of Ladbroke's employees in betting-shops smoke, as do more than 80 per

cent of their customers.) In addition, there seems to be no contact between London and other parts of the country, and managers, without instructions, are trying to read the company's mind.

In the absence of instructions and explanations, rumours suggest that Ladbroke's wishes to improve its image, one highly entertaining tale insists that the firm aspires to be "more like a bank or a building society". In all this, newly-engaged staff are being asked to sign, in their contract of employment, a binding agreement that they will not smoke at work, which makes the confusion all the greater, since no such contractual promise has been demanded of staff who joined the firm earlier.

Amid the confusion, one ugly aspect has shown itself. A lady in the Midlands region, who has worked for Ladbroke's for 10 years, was told that if she did not agree to the ban on smoking she would be sacked; she did not agree, and she was sacked.

I look forward to the reaction of the four-fifths of Ladbroke's betting customers who smoke when they are told that a two-tier system may be introduced, under which the customers may smoke and the staff may not (or, as it might be, vice versa), and I imagine that the customers will be stampeding in the direction of Coral as soon as either half of the policy comes into full force.

Cakes and ale, the ale, it seems, has beneficial properties, quite apart from the pleasure it offers. But voices have already been raised to denounce the New Zealand good news — not on a scientific basis, but driven by a hatred of the pleasures of alcohol, they would prefer us to die of heart failure than have a hearty gargle. Meanwhile, the cakes, in the form of cigarettes, lead only to the sack, and I dare say that a spokesman will shortly declare that the ban on them has been taken solely in the interests of the staff. After that, a kindly management will engage expert elocutionists to teach them to say "How now, brown cow", in preparation for the day when it will be impossible to distinguish a Ladbroke's betting-shop from a bank or a building society.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

"I always greatly look forward to the British Pedants Association annual fun-day," I said to a fellow member as the hall began to fill up.

"Wouldn't 'I always look forward greatly' be preferable?" he replied. "Or even 'I look forward greatly always'."

"Forgive me overhearing," chimed in a passing pedant. "But, quite regardless of grammar, it would not be strictly true to say that you *always* greatly look forward to the British Pedants Association annual fun-day. On the day itself, you would no longer be looking forward, as you would already be present at it, the 'it' referring, of course, to the fun-day."

"Unless you were looking forward to next year's fun-day," countered the first pedant.

A bell rang for silence. "Absurd to ring a bell for silence," whispered the first pedant, "when the noise imparted by the bell itself contributes generously to the prevailing noise."

"Welcome, one and all," said the chairman.

"On a point of information, Mr Chairman," a woman at the back of the hall rose to speak. "On a point of information, is there any reason to welcome both *one* and *all*? The term 'all' incorporates each 'one', making the term 'one' redundant."

"Welcome, all," said the chairman.

"On a point of information, Mr Chairman," Again, the woman in the back leapt to her feet. "Welcome all *what*?"

One and a half hours later, the meeting got under way.

It started, in traditional fashion, with a move by the Apostrophe Action Group to have an apostrophe incorporated into the title, making it the British Pedants' Association. This was countered by an angry move from a reformist splinter-group to place the apostrophe after the "r" of "Pedants", making it the British Pedant's Association.

"Oh dear," sighed the chairman, "temperaments are continuously flaring."

"Continuously flaring," choraled one half of the hall.

"Our dictionaries define 'flare' as 'a sudden outburst of flame', chorused the other half of the hall, "so it could be neither 'continuous' or 'continual'."

"Nor after 'neither', not 'or'!" screamed everyone else.

The chairman, wishing to avoid a scene, hastily moved the meeting on. "This year, our fun-day consists of a boat-trip," he announced.

"With a hyphen or without?" asked the woman at the back, but all the others had already begun to take their seats on the coach, where a new spirit of jollity prevailed as we joined together to sing hearty renditions of "Maybe it is owing to the fact that I'm a Londoner". "Here we are going, here we are going, here we are going," and "She loves you, yes, yes, yes."

Once on board, a group of us made our way to the bar. "I'll have something long," I said to the barman, who passed me a

ball of string. It emerged he was a branch-secretary of the British Pedants Association. The waiter came to take our orders for lunch. "Do you have frog's legs?" I wondered. "No, sir, I was born like it," he replied.

Wishing to take a break from such an excess of pedantry, I went up to the top deck of our boat, HMS Boat. There I began to throw a few puns to the seagulls, which swooped down to read the ingredients on the packet before gingerly pecking at them. I was chatting to a fellow pedant about the untidiness of the waves when I noticed with horror that we were fast approaching a rock.

"Land ahoy!" I yelled to the captain.

"Slang," he replied. "And, I might add, there is no verb in 'Land Ahoy!', so that it does not, in any strict sense, constitute a proper sentence."

"SOS!" I screamed. "The rock is coming closer!"

"Correction," said the captain, "it is we who are coming closer to the rock, not vice versa."

When the crunch finally came, the captain shouted, "All hands to the deck!" As I swam away, I watched the boat sink with the palms of hundreds of pedants fixed doggedly to her deck. "It is the way they would have wanted to go," I thought to myself as their pedantic bottoms disappeared beneath the waves. "Or, on second thoughts, should that be 'It was the way they would have wanted to have gone'?"

Broadcast diplomacy

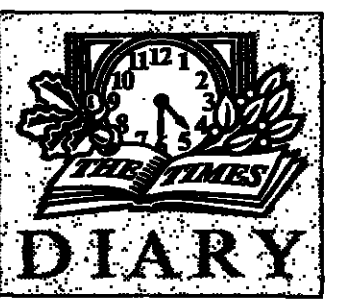
THE Foreign Office has given the go-ahead to the BBC World Service, which wants to split its Serbo-Croat division in two. The move seems to be one of the first signs that the government is prepared to accept the division of Yugoslavia, despite John Major's declaration earlier this year that "the price is to hold the federation together".

"From September 29, instead of broadcasting in Slovene and Serbo-Croat we will have three languages, with separate programmes in Serb and Croat," says Maja Samolov, head of the BBC Yugoslav section. Hitherto, the difference between the two languages has been largely one of accent. Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade correspondent for *The Times*, who is from Zagreb in Croatia, says that when she moved to Belgrade in Serbia, her accent was mocked.

"The two languages have been moving further apart, with different words and grammar being introduced. The Croats tried to impose new rules on their language, but Tito stamped that out."

Croats have been pressurising the BBC for some time to change from the federal-approved unified Serbo-Croat. The World Service approached the Foreign Office which, after considerable argument, finally agreed.

"We don't make foreign policy decisions," says Benny Ammar, head of the BBC's South-East European Service, who took the decision. "It was done for broadcasting reasons." In order to move from short-wave to FM, he says, the BBC requires the co-operation of local stations. "Few Croatian stations would agree, if the broadcaster sounded like a Serb or vice versa."



Authentic honk

HISTORIC verisimilitude, recreating the sights and sounds of history, is increasingly the aim of museum curators. Some have even tried to recreate the smells. But few have gone so far as Llancaiach Fawr, a 17th-century manor house in mid-Glamorgan, where the living history museum attempts to recreate the year 1645. "Smells are far more evocative than words," says Val Williams, deputy director of the museum.

The pongs being carefully recreated include the distinctive waft of a 17th-century pigeon-loft (the birds were used as messengers by the Royalists during the war) and the fruity smell of a Roundhead army stables. "We are also hoping to give our visitors an idea of the smell from the latrine shoot," Williams threatens.

Disperse thee

POLICE officers demanding the return of the Riot Act are wide of the mark. Dr James Sharpe, lecturer on criminal history at York, says: "The problem with the Riot Act was always enforcement. It meant that a JP had to confront the rioters, literally read the act to them, and tell them to disperse." It seldom worked. During the Gordon riots in 1780, for example,

one JP read the Riot Act to the mob, who responded by running off to burn down his house. The act, last used in Liverpool in 1919 and repealed in 1967, also had to be read correctly — otherwise it could be declared invalid. One conviction was quashed in 1830 because the JP omitted the concluding words: "God save the King".



Naming of parts

WANTED: a new name for whatever it is the old Soviet Union is about to come. With the Congress of People's Deputies about to agree President Gorbachev's plans for a looser union, hardly anything is salvageable from the title USSR, says Alex Nove, former director of Soviet studies at Glasgow University.

"Union" won't do because the country is hardly that. "Soviet" might just pass because in Russian it means 'council', but it is so closely associated with the Soviets set up by Lenin that it will probably have to go, says Nove. "Socialist" is out now that the Communist party has been suspended, which leaves 'Republics'. But will the 15 become separate states? One possible description, Nove says, is 'commonwealth', but of what, who knows?

Euro blues

THE dreaming spires are bowing before the spirit of 1992. Oxford University is to offer its first degrees in European Studies at a new research institute.

The Institute of European Studies, as it is to be known, is the brainchild of the publisher Lord Weidenfeld and Sir Ronald Grier, a former chairman of the South Bank Centre, who have established the Europaem Trust to raise the estimated £12 million required to fund the institute.

Five new permanent teaching posts, divided between lectureships and professorships, are to be created, and recruitment, due to begin shortly, will be from all over Europe. Who would be a suitable director? Dr David Owen left the Labour party partly in protest at its anti-Europeanism and will shortly be in search of a job. Lord Thomas of Swynerton, a former chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, is also considered a leading candidate, while another obvious name is Sir Ralf Dahrendorf, who is warden of St Antony's College.

Norman Willis and the general council of the TUC are staying this week at the Kelvin Lodge, a pleasant Glaswegian hotel. They would have stayed at the plusher Moat House, conveniently located next to the conference venue, but were urged not to do so by the GMB, the union which organises hotel workers, after a union dispute. Not a few delegates have raised eyebrows at this week on discovering that a number of delegations are enjoying the comfort and convenience of the Moat House nevertheless — including the brothers and sisters of the GMB. In between the TUC moving in, the union lifted the convenient.



FROM RED TO AMBER

The latest base-rate cut suggests that the politicians are starting to flex their muscles against the Treasury inside fortress Downing Street. While the Chancellor of the Exchequer has long damped down talk of further base-rate cuts and pleaded with his colleagues to banish all thought of an election this year, party managers have wanted to keep the option open.

The rate cut — there are rumours of another within the month — is hardly a gamble with the economy, especially with sterling high in its ERM band. Almost all indicators remain firmly at slump, with such joy as there is coming from evidence of what the Bank of England calls "bumping along the bottom". But since monetary fine-tuning is confined to this method, it is a gamble politically. Some unforeseen external event — such as a rise in German interest rates — might force a rise before election time. The lower British rates go, the greater this risk and thus the stronger the case for going to the country early.

This gamble has been taken. John Major is now allowing his machine to flit with an autumn election, where six months ago he was enjoying modesty. An opinion poll giving the Tories a small lead boosted his cabinet as fast as trailing slightly behind Labour was depressing them in the spring. None of them has really liked the thought of waiting until next year. The party chairman, Chris Patten, has made carefully modulated speeches. On the one hand he plays down the possibility of an election this year, to protect the prime minister from accusation of funk should he decide not to have one. On the other, he makes optimistic noises, so sustaining the electioneering phoney war.

The words of politicians are no guide to what will happen. Nor is the onward march of government. There are good arguments for getting an election out of the way before the crucial European Community meeting at Maastricht in December. There are powerful ones for removing electoral politics from consideration of monetary policy next winter and from budget policy next year. This could prove the longest and most

debilitating general election campaign in recent history, strengthening the case for a modified form of fixed-term parliaments.

Whatever happens to interest rates, there is only one oracle that John Major will consult on election timing, and that is the opinion polls. An election will be held this autumn if, and only if, Mr Major is reasonably sure that he will win it. Never have the spinning wheels of the pollsters' computers been paid such a compliment.

Mr Major cannot yet have the evidence on which to decide. The Tories' present poll lead is new-born. Harold Wilson's defeat in 1970 has stood as a warning to politicians against hasty conclusions from rapid poll advances. One Mori poll has given Mr Major a two per cent lead. Tory private polls appear to confirm this. But two per cent would not be enough to give the Tories an overall majority in the Commons. And such leads can disappear overnight. One painful hospital closure, one ministerial peccadillo, one adverse CBI survey or a blip on the balance of payments and it is gone.

The prime minister's performance during the Soviet upheavals and his deft performance in a most difficult Far East tour stand him in good stead. Last spring, his party managers were deliberating an early election to minimise the risk of Mr Major slipping on a banana skin or losing his novelty value. They worried that he might be a wasting asset. Mr Major has laid those cards to rest. But he has yet to put to the test on the hustings, and he is up against a practised electioneering Labour leader and team.

So there may yet be an autumn election. But for "may" to become "will" requires the Tories to be further ahead and for longer. At present the election lights have switched from red to amber. They are still not green. Mr Major does appear to have ruled the Treasury and its interest-rate dance of the seven veils out of the account. Everything between now and October will be geared to increasing the opinion poll lead. The signs to watch are not from Number Ten or Smith Square but from NOP, Gallup and Mori.

RESHAPING SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's president, F. W. de Klerk, yesterday unveiled the National party's plan for the future constitution of his country. Mr de Klerk has emphasised that his plan is only the beginning of the negotiating process. The plan is rooted in two principles fundamental to a stable democracy in any divided society. One is that of equal civil rights, including the vote, for all citizens. The other is the entrenchment of protection for minorities.

If some version of this draft constitution is adopted, it would deprive the white minority of its absolute prerogative, but prevent any black party — the African National Congress included — from dominating. Power would reside in the hands of an oligarchy, probably made up of the ANC, Inkatha and the National party. It is a genuine power-sharing system, designed to render a one-party state impossible.

Mr de Klerk has resorted in the first place to devolution. Many of the powers of South Africa's highly centralised government will pass to regional and local authorities and should force local groups to work together. If devolution can be achieved — and decentralising government is every bit as hard as democratising it — it would help prevent the tyranny of a distant centralism.

Mr de Klerk's bicameral legislature envisages a lower house elected by proportional representation and an upper house with nine equal electoral districts elected by a system weighted in favour of minorities. The American Senate was intended to hinder more populous states from oppressing smaller ones. Its South African equivalent would have the same aim. The proposed group presidency, which builds coalition politics into the system, is another crucial mechanism for the diffusion of power.

In elections to the lower house, everybody would have an equal vote. But to mitigate the revolutionary impact of democracy, Mr de Klerk has proposed two major modifications to the principle of one man, one vote. The upper chamber, with special powers

over minority legislation, would be elected from the regions using a system which would guarantee seats to any party that reached a minimum threshold of votes.

At the local level the vote would be divided equally between all residents and local property-owners, lessees and ratepayers. Forms of weighted voting have been common in emerging democracies: there was a property qualification in Britain until 1918. Many blacks now own property, but this proposal would counterbalance the vote of the huge itinerant black population.

The intention is clearly to limit the power of a new class of black urban bosses to visit on their enemies the same intolerance and unfairness that in the past was visited on them. It is as unacceptable to the ANC leadership as it is reassuring to whites and possibly mixed race and Indian groups as well. But such matters should be for negotiation. Whatever happens to the property franchise, the drawing of constituency, regional and municipal boundaries will be decisive for the balance of power.

The problem for critics is to show how any reform lacking checks and balances of the kind now proposed would be likely to prove more stable. Mr de Klerk must not lose sight of the white constituency, fearful of seeing South Africa go the way of Zimbabwe. Yet he must give non-whites a realistic hope that political power will shift in their direction. Despite its elaborate blocking mechanisms, the proposed electoral system does fulfil his promise to deliver democracy.

The ANC has rejected the new plan out of hand. Many will have their doubts about the ANC's ability to reach compromises reinforced. While the ANC, too, has its constituency to consider, the pace of events may overtake its existing leadership. Mr de Klerk deserves to be given a fair hearing. Since South Africa is the most prosperous and outward-looking country in Africa, he is the best hope of the entire continent.

ORBITAL NONSENSE

When the M25 motorway was first conceived, 88,000 vehicles a day were expected to travel along any one section. On the busiest parts of the motorway, the number has been exactly double that. So the M25 must be widened, says the government, and perhaps in a decade or two a new orbital motorway should be built. The sure result will be that more cars will take to the M25 and its outer twin, bringing congestion back to where it was before.

Nothing brings out the economic illiteracy of the British middle classes quite so much as road transport. Roads are the one public service that they expect to be supplied free to each driver according to his or her need *ad infinitum*. The building of free new roads can be justified where the old road is a bad one, not because of excess demand (which should be restrained by price) but because it is unsafe, inconvenient to non-users or slow without being congested. By-passes respond to many of these considerations.

When roads are built simply to "relieve congestion" in densely populated areas, here is no point — members of the road construction lobby excepted — in appealing to projected demand statistics. Demand will imply rise to meet supply until rationed, by congestion if not by other means.

This has been the lesson of many an American city that has bowed to electoral leas for better roads. Huge sums of money have been spent and vast tracts of land used

up on freeways that soon yield no improvement in journey times. (There is some evidence that urban road congestion rationing starts to "bite" the world over at 12 mph during rush hours.) A better collective return would have been derived from investing in price-sensitive transport, such as trains, subways and reserved lanes for priority vehicles such as buses.

In the long run, the best way to curb increases in traffic density is to raise road-use prices to a market-clearing level. Traffic volume, especially at peak hours, might be reduced to the benefit of those prepared to pay and of essential users, who might be relieved of paying. Those who are put off will choose another form of transport, a different route or a different time. They may even calculate whether they need to make a particular car journey at all.

One day, a system of road pricing will be devised that will be fair, collectable and not disruptive to traffic flow. If "black boxes" which monitored road use became technically feasible, heavy users of congested roads during rush hours could be charged more for their annual vehicle licence. In the meantime, a blunter instrument is needed. The best way to charge motorists at the margin is to abolish road tax and sharply increase petrol tax to offset the loss. To build more free roads to encourage drivers to use their cars more is truly as senseless as would be supplying them with free cars.

Hong Kong anger at Major accord

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, I returned this morning from a visit to Hong Kong to be greeted by your leading article ("Ripe for democracy"). I had found my interlocutors there, both Chinese and expatriate, seething with animosity against British behaviour. None of them believes that the explanations given for the 1984 agreement are anything but paltry pretexts hiding its underlying motivations.

They regard HM government's emissaries to Peking as kow-towing to the communist rulers in a manner which their forebears denied to Manchu emperors. They regard Mr Major's dilemma — to raise human rights issues and thereby affront his hosts, or not to raise them and thereby affront British public opinion — as one of his government's own making. Had it not urged Peking to take back Hong Kong (the initiative came from Whitehall, not the Forbidden City) Major would not have needed to go to China in the first place.

Permission to elect one third of the legislature, without time for campaigning and under threats from Peking and collaborators in the colony, is not seen in Hong Kong as a step towards democracy but rather its denial.

As regards fitness for democracy, by all the known criteria the Chinese of Hong Kong are as fitted for democracy as the people of this country and the EC. They are hard-working and responsible, but demand less of government than almost any people. They are thereby correspondingly less vulnerable to demagoguery and the disillusionment which inexorably follows the failure of promised gifts from government and generates the political turbulence which in turn leads to ungovernability, anarchy and dictatorship.

The Hong Kong Chinese are a law-abiding people. Denied the vote, increasing numbers are voting with their feet, to a point where the colony's economic and hence political stability could be endangered long before it is eventually handed over to one of the most oppressive, incompetent and unpredictable regimes in history.

It is not too late to reconsider the 1984 agreement.

Yours etc,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7,
September 4.

TV licence tax

From Mr Garry Pownall

Sir, Only a civil service lawyer could think of the TV licence as something other than a bill from the BBC. The rest of us should now insist that the money due to the corporation is collected in a more open and direct way.

It is wasteful to employ companies of Post Office and civil service clerks to tax an almost universal amenity. It is absurd to maintain the pretence that the state must control the reception of broadcast transmissions of any kind.

It is also disagreeable that employees of Subscription Services Limited (the Post Office subsidiary which operates the National Television Licence Records Office) should roam the country with TV-detector vans, threatening with £400 fines those who have not paid a perfectly ordinary bill for services to be provided during the year following one of our many broadcasting organisations.

Yours truly,
GARRY POWNALL,
14 Belmont Road, SW4,
September 2.

Emperor's remains

From Dom Cuthbert Brogan, OSB

Sir, You report (August 28) the efforts of a group of Corsican Bonapartists to "have Napoleon III's ashes returned from a cemetery in Chislehurst, Kent".

I hope that the many French and English "Second Empire" enthusiasts who visit the imperial mausoleum at the Benedictine Abbey of St Michael in Farnborough will rest assured that we have not cremated the Emperor's remains nor have we returned them to Chislehurst.

The Empress Eugénie brought the body here in 1888 where it rests along with that of the Prince Imperial (of Zulu war fame) and that of the Empress Eugénie herself, who died in 1920.

Yours faithfully,
D. CUTHBERT,
St Michael's Abbey,
Farnborough, Hampshire.

Unfamiliar names

From Professor David Webb

Sir, As a plant-geographer who has been plagued most of my life by changes in recommended place-names, I fully support Dr Hubert Sandford's protest (British Association report, August 31) against the constant pressure to change familiar place-names to unfamiliar.

Two separate issues are at stake. One is transliteration. Some years ago the Chinese government decided that a standardised version of Roman letters of Chinese personal and geographical names was desirable. Fair enough, but they seem to have overlooked the very varied pronunciations that different Europeans give to the same letter, and to the fact that very many Chinese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Need for more cash and fewer babies

From Mr Guy H. Yeoman

Sir, Sir Crispin Tickell (British Association report, August 27) has added his voice to the increasing number of people who realise that attempts to moderate the environmental crisis will be vitiated if the world's population is not stabilised. However, like most of those before him, he has made no practical proposal as to how, in the short time left to us, the current population explosion is to be contained.

The problem is most acute in sub-Saharan Africa, where the prime driving force behind large families is the male ethos that demands numerous children irrespective of the woman's wishes. An essential prerequisite to any form of family planning programme is to provide women with the power to neutralise this pressure.

This is the objective of the proposed state dowry concept, which is in effect a reverse-targeted child allowance system, whereby Western aid funding would increasingly be directed towards a financial incentive to women for delaying marriage and spacing their babies more widely.

This would ensure a smaller number of babies which would, however, be better provided for, thus attaining the reduced infant mortality that all are agreed is the first requirement for population stabilisation. Inter alia, the system would fuel a shift towards female emancipation, a change that all who are familiar with African life at grassroots level know is essential if the continent is to make social and economic advance.

In supporting the letter from the chairman of Population Concern (August 29), I believe it will be irresponsible if this option is not debated at the proposed 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UnCED) in Rio de Janeiro; indeed, it should be at the top of the agenda.

Yours sincerely,
GUY YEOMAN,
High Altitude Africa,
Crowden Lea, Upper Booth,
Edale, Derbyshire,
August 30.

From Mr R. G. J. Ottaway

Sir, Sir Crispin Tickell's warning of social and environmental catastrophe as a result of world population growth and Diana Brown's reinforcing letter (August 29) are welcome.

Indonesia, for example, is beginning to emerge as an Asian economic success story with GNP growth of 4.3 per cent. It is recognised that by the year 2005 Indonesia is going to become one of

the strongest markets in the Pacific region. At the same time population growth will have fallen to 1.4 per cent from its peak of 2.4 per cent in 1971.

The Indonesian minister of finance said in an article in June that its economic progress was largely attributable to the commencement of a family-planning programme started in 1969 and running concurrently with the development plan.

In his view a "check on the population growth must be initiated early in the process" to achieve economic growth.

This could not have been achieved in Indonesia without international assistance. During the latter years 1982-9 the level of international aid for family planning exceeded US\$130 million.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY,
The Studio,
20 Church Street, W4,
August 30.

From the Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, I was interested to read Diana Brown's letter expressing concern that population and the links with development and the environment were not being properly addressed in the run-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development. My fellow minister, Lynda Chalker, raised exactly these concerns with Maurice Strong, the secretary-general of the conference, earlier this year and he has confirmed that the population issues will not be neglected.

At the current preparatory meeting in Geneva the UK has presented an issues paper, "Population, environment and development", to further the debate. Nor are we alone on this issue: the Dutch environment minister, Mr Alders, speaking on behalf of the EC and its member states, said on August 26 in Geneva at our request:

The complex links between population, environment and development need to be addressed. There is a need for more research, for including a demographic perspective in planning and project analysis, for identifying activities which simultaneously address population, environment and poverty issues. Two actions are extremely important in this context — improvement of the rights and livelihoods of women and increasing support for family planning.

The government will continue to see that population is indeed firmly on UnCED's agenda.
Yours sincerely,
CAITHNESS,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
August 30.

half a century it is easy to understand, but difficult to defend. Parliament's distrust of reform.

Lacking good argument, parliamentarians are reduced to dangling before the electorate the horrid spectre of a "hung" Parliament. Yet in the contentious world outside Westminster "hungness" is so commonplace and of so little significance in the conduct of private and public transactions that no one can be bothered to coin a word for it.

Reform must come. It remains to be seen if it will be a logical "leap in the daylight", enhancing the prestige of Parliament as a whole, or merely a reluctant concession, a grudging bribe to ensure the compliance of one small party.

Yours sincerely,
W. DIXON SMITH,
6 Welland Rise,
Acomb, York,
September 2.

Sparham, whose letter (August 24) highlights the problem of maintaining and repairing our parish churches, to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (a non-denominational charity) and 28 independent but affiliated county historic churches trusts.

Last year, the HCPT awarded grants and loans to some 367 churches of all denominations, the total sum disbursed exceeding £1 million.

However, the trust's awards make only a small impression on the massive problem bravely faced by the smaller parishes, and the recent increase in VAT is a particular additional burden.

The trust is therefore campaigning to increase the level of its voluntary support so that the help given to parishes can be significantly increased.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. C. HEPTINSTALL
(Secretary),
Historic Churches Preservation Trust,
Fulham Palace, SW6,
August 29.

From Captain R. H. C. Heptinstall, RN

Sir, May I refer the Rural Dean of

sounds have no precise equivalent in any European language.

Beijing, therefore, will be pronounced differently by almost every European nation (to a German it is likely to be "Byeying"), and in few, if any, languages is the sound much closer to that of a native than is Peking. After all, the Chinese name for their capital is not Beijing; it consists of one or two characters which few of us can read.

The second issue is that of long-familiar usage. I cannot see anything wrong in the Germans talking of Mailand and Venedig, the French

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Traffic jams at Thames locks

From Mr Edward Burrell

Sir, Mr Horsnell concludes his article on the National River Authority's proposal to ease congestion at Thames locks (August 27) by saying that owners of many of the large craft will shrug their shoulders and pay up. This is not the case. Almost every club and group connected with the river has made representation against the proposal, and Finch (Fair Inland Navigation Charges) has been specifically formed to address this matter.

There are viable alternatives which would ease congestion and operate on an equitable level for all concerned — e.g. a two-tier, on-peak/off-peak system of licensing. The NRA has made it quite clear that its plan is not an exercise in obtaining additional revenue, but is designed to get rid of the boats from a river on which everyone has a right of navigation. And even owners of small, unaffected craft are up in arms.

Nobody wants to see a river denuded of craft which are historic or traditional and turned into some kind of bureaucratically efficient system of moving boats around at high speed. The river has a majestic pace and those on it should respect that.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BURRELL (Chairman),
Fair Inland Navigation Charges,
The Boathouse,
Lower Hampton Road,
Sunbury on Thames,
Surrey,
August 27.

National lottery

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, Mr Endicott of the Foundation for Sport and the Arts (August 30) takes Lord Birkett to task for lack of confidence in what the foundation will be able to do. We have every confidence in the foundation, but it has been widely quoted as providing up to £60 million a year.

A national lottery is widely predicted as providing up to £1 billion a year. That is a sum which could cope with our needs for the quality of life. Sixty million pounds is not. If Mr Endicott is suggesting that his welcome new foundation could grow, to provide the sum a lottery could — then I suggest he joins the Lottery Promotion Company. We never doubted his "organisational muscle", but it is welcome news that his aims are on the same scale as ours.

But he says the "honest" argument for a national lottery is sweeping away the UK gambling market, complete with its £13.5 billion turnover and £1 billion tax, and replacing it with some continental-style monopoly. That's not honest, that's daft.

Yours etc,
DENIS VAUGHAN
(Executive Director),
The Lottery Promotion
Company Ltd.,
41 Floral Street, WC2,
August 30.

Alternative reading

From Mr John Ambrose

Sir, In "So is it hats off for good?" (August 31) John Grigg quotes a line from John Betjeman that does not appear in my anthology — "At a red suburb ruled by Mrs Simpson".

Could any reader tell me when this was altered to "At the new suburb stretched beyond the runway"? Did Betjeman himself have second thoughts or did his publishers?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN AMBROSE,
66 London Street,
Chertsey,
Surrey,
September 2.

The study of crime

From Professor David Canter

Sir, Alice Thomson's article ("Tracking the criminal mind", September 4) on our forthcoming MSc course in investigative psychology wrongly attributed to me the suggestion that the FBI behavioural science training course spends as much time on physical education as on academic study. I did say that it, appropriately, focuses on operational matters where ours will focus on research and development.

We, like police forces throughout the world, have learned a great deal from the FBI's pioneering work on profiling. Ms Thomson's indication that I was dismissive of the FBI training was incorrect.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CANTER,
University of Surrey,
Department of Psychology,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH,
September 4.

Modern hazard

From Mr Bill Abbott

Sir, I have just dismantled the gas fire in response to the apparent urgent, intermittent distress call of a bird in the chimney whilst making comforting responses to indicate help was at hand, only to realise that a smoke alarm was giving me its first request for a new battery.

I wonder where else this elusive species has turned out not to be. Yours sincerely,
BILL ABBOTT,
96 Turners Mill Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,
September 2.

BBC 1

- 6.00** *Ceeba's 5.30 Breakfast News*. An up-date on yesterday's reports from HammerSmith hospital. **9.35** *Perfect Strangers*. American comedy series.
- 10.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **10.05** *Playdays*. **10.30** *Stoppit and Tidyup*. Cartoon. **10.35 *Runaway Am and Andy*. Animated adventures of two mischievous boys.**
- 11.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **11.05** *The Reluctant Cook*. News anchor Julia Neuberger prepares something better than her normal only-lighter-than-air cake. **11.30** *Hospital Watch*. This first visit of the day to HamnerSmith hospital focuses on specialist treatments and facilities.
- 12.00** *The Garden Party*. Includes Anne Gregg exploring Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castle on the Northumbrian coast; music from Canada's leading artist Oka Harnoy; and a discussion on whether Britain's zoo should be closed down. Viewers are asked to phone in their vote after hearing opposing views from William Trevelyan of Zoo Check and author Colin Tudge. **12.55** *Regional news and weather*.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* and weather.
- 1.30** *Neighbours*. **1.50** *Macgregor's Scotland*. The last leg of Jimmie Macgregor's walk along the Southern Upland Way covers Leander to Cockburnspath. **2.20** *The Irishman*. **2.40** *Stargate*. Strong drama, set in Twentieth Century, about an Irish seaman who refuses to believe the arrival of the internal combustion engine will make his beloved steam of Ceylon obsolete. Directed by Donald Crombie.
- 4.05** *Cartoon*. **4.10** *The All New Poppy Show*. Two cartoons. **4.30** *Alfonso Bonzo*. Episode three of the six-part children's adventure about a boy with powers to swap at will. **5.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **5.05** *We Are the Champions*. Presented by Gary Lineker. Teams of disabled youngsters from Northern Ireland in action on the track and the pool. **5.30** *Neighbours*. **5.45** *Stargate*. **6.00** *Stargate*. **6.15** *Regional news and weather*. **6.30** *Regional news and weather*. **6.45** *Stargate*. **7.00** *Hospital Watch*. The second visit of the day to HamnerSmith hospital examines how it has pioneered ways of reducing recovery times after operations. **7.30** *EastEnders*. **8.00** *Allo 'Allo!* Yet another re-run for Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft's French Resistance farce. The Germans arrest Fanny and Leclerc, the elderly new-weds, and, much to René's dismay, Edith decides to try and rescue them and smuggle them to Spain. **8.15** *Cartoon*.

BBC 2

- 6.45** *Open University: A New Breed*. Ends at 7.10.
- 8.00** *News*.
- 8.15** *Roach Hashanah*. Dr Jonathan Sachs, the Chief Rabbi, reflects on the festival heralding the Jewish new year.
- 8.30** *Great Mysteries*. Henry Lincoln investigates the prophecies of Nostradamus, the 16th-century astrologer who lived in the south of France and trained as a doctor at Montpellier university. **9.00** *Film: Lesle - the Adventures of Neelke* (1988) starring Jacky Allan, Mark Miranda and Robert Rockwell. Adventure yarn in which the canny canine is reunited with the young Indian boy he befriended in Alaska. Directed by Dick Mulvaney and Richard Hively.
- 10.10** *Film: Sea Devils* (1987, b/w) starring Victor McLaglen, Preston Foster and Ida Lupino. Simple romantic adventure about a coast guard who is desperate to marry his captain's daughter, but finds opposition from the girl's father. Directed by Ben Stiller.
- 11.35** *A Long Day's Journey*. A documentary examining the plight of commuters in the southeast of England. **12.05** *The Famous Teddy Z*. American comedy series about a young Hollywood agent.
- 12.30** *Spirits from the Past*. Hugh Burnett meets three people who claim they are in contact with dead musicians. **1.20** *Green Glass*. Children's adventure series. **1.35** *Discovering Birds*. Tony Sopar introduces viewers to the delights of ornithology. **2.00** *News* and weather followed by *In the Garden*. Denis Comish explains that September is the best time to start off standard tulips for the following summer.
- 2.20** *Many Happy Returns*. Two children who claim to have been reincarnated recount their extraordinary stories. Nicole, a 12-year-old from Kelghley in West Yorkshire believed she lived as a boy in the same place a century ago, a claim that seems to be confirmed by the parish register; and six-year-old boy living in northern India says he was murdered two generations ago and that his shop and widow are still in existence. **3.00** *News* and weather followed by *Golf: The Walker Cup*. Live coverage of the first day of the main event in the men's amateur competition. Great Britain and Ireland take on the United States at Portmarnock, defending the trophy for only the third time in the competition's 70 year history. Describing the action are Peter Alliss, Bruce Arundell, Peter Townsend and Roddy Carr. Includes news, regional news and weather at 3.50.
- 6.00** *Film: The Last of His Tribe* (1978) starring Dennis Weaver, Joseph Running Fox and Michael Medina. A well-made television drama, based on fact, about a young Indian boy who, after seeing his tribe massacred, spends years in the wilderness watching his companions die before being driven into the world of the white man. Directed by Robert Ellis Miller.

ITV

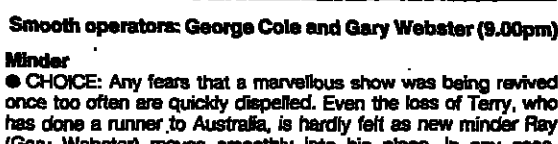
- 6.00** *TV-am*.
- 9.25** *Runway*. Holiday quiz game. **9.55** *Thames News* and weather. **10.00** *The Time ... The Place ...* Topical discussion series. **10.40** *This Morning*. Family magazine. **12.10** *The Riddlers*. Children's puppet series. **12.30** *News* with John Sutherland. Weather. **1.10** *Thames News* and weather.
- 1.20** *Home and Away*. **1.50** *A Country Practice*. Drama series set in and around an Australian rural health centre. **2.20** *TV Weekly*. The first of a new series in which Anne Diamond goes to the heart of the stories of TV and Channel 4 programmes to talk to the stars of the shows and Barry Toombs introduces clips from the television archives. **2.50** *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity charades hosted by Michael Parkinson.
- 3.15** *ITN News headlines*. **3.20** *Thames News headlines*. **3.25** *The Young Doctors*. Australian medical drama. **3.55** *Radio 4*. **4.00** *Cartoon*. **4.10** *Cartoon*. **4.15** *Cartoon*. **4.20** *Cartoon*. **4.25** *Cartoon*. **4.30** *Cartoon*. **4.35** *Cartoon*. **4.40** *Cartoon*. **4.45** *Cartoon*. **4.50** *Cartoon*. **4.55** *Cartoon*. **5.00** *Cartoon*. **5.05** *Cartoon*. **5.10** *Cartoon*. **5.15** *Cartoon*. **5.20** *Cartoon*. **5.25** *Cartoon*. **5.30** *Cartoon*. **5.35** *Cartoon*. **5.40** *Cartoon*. **5.45** *Cartoon*. **5.50** *Cartoon*. **5.55** *Cartoon*. **6.00** *Cartoon*. **6.05** *Cartoon*. **6.10** *Cartoon*. **6.15** *Cartoon*. **6.20** *Cartoon*. **6.25** *Cartoon*. **6.30** *Cartoon*. **6.35** *Cartoon*. **6.40** *Cartoon*. **6.45** *Cartoon*. **6.50** *Cartoon*. **6.55** *Cartoon*. **7.00** *Cartoon*. **7.05** *Cartoon*. **7.10** *Cartoon*. **7.15** *Cartoon*. **7.20** *Cartoon*. **7.25** *Cartoon*. **7.30** *Cartoon*. **7.35** *Cartoon*. **7.40** *Cartoon*. **7.45** *Cartoon*. **7.50** *Cartoon*. **7.55** *Cartoon*. **8.00** 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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** *The Channel 4 Daily*.
- 9.25** *The World at Your Feet*. Actress and wildlife campaigner Virginia McKenna takes a nine-day trek through the remote Himalayan region of Ladakh, from Manali to Padum. **10.25** *Famous for Four Minutes*. An unknown Briton has his or her share of fame for 240 seconds. **10.30** *Fight Over Spain*. La Rioja from the air. **11.00** *Power in the Pacific*. The last in the series focuses on Japan's economic strength. **12.00** *Something to Treasure*. Geoffrey Bond and Su Evans explore the world of collectors. **12.30** *Business Daily*. **1.00** *Seaside Street*. Pre-school entertainment. Today's guest is actress Candice Bergen. **2.00** *The March of Time*. Today's edition compares a report made before Pearl Harbor casting for tolerance towards America's ethnic minorities with the treatment they received during the war years. **2.30** *Film: The History of Mr Poll (1948, b/w)* starring John Mills. Enjoyable adaptation of H.G. Wells's story of a hapless husband who decides to leave in search of a happier life. Directed by Anthony Pelissier. **4.15** *Nomad*. A visual diary of Indian life. **4.30** *Countdown*. **5.00** *Write the Wipe*. **5.05** *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Spike Lee director of *Jungle Fever* and *Stevie Wonder* who provided the music, talk about the controversial film. **6.00** *The Time Tunnel: Invasion*. Adventures of two scientists caught in a time warp. **6.30** *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. **7.00** *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. **7.50** *Comment*. **8.00** *Women of Wisdom*. The third in the six-part series features Twyla Mitchell, an elder and spiritual teacher of the Seneca tribe of North American Indians. **8.30** *Biting Lamp*. Classic Seventies comedy starring Leonard Rossiter as the owner of a run-down boarding house. **9.00** *All Change for Sverdlovsk*. **9.15** *CHOICE*. A report from the Soviet Union's biggest industrial region after Moscow, and the birthplace of Boris Yeltsin, suggests that the country is in an even worse economic mess than we have been led to believe. For 70 years a centrally controlled economy has guaranteed low prices (not have been there since 1929), more or less full employment, and state welfare. Now people are being asked to embrace the free market. With the transition only just starting, Sverdlovsk is getting the worst of both worlds. Prices are no longer held but wages are not going up to compensate. Firms are being urged to become more productive but lack capital investment. The ending of the story of the star-crossed lovers Ophelia and Eurycleia. **9.25** *Babel*. A five action, special effects celebration of British enterprise and its problems, made by Kevin Wrench, Andrew Franks and David Hopkins. **10.00** *Film: Good Morning Babylon* (1986). **10.15** *CHOICE*. *Good Morning Babylon* is a film made by two Italian brothers about two Italian brothers, with the action straggling Italy and the United States. The writing and directing team of Paolo and Vittorio Taviani draw on real events to frame the story of two sons of a stone-mason who migrate to America and find work on the sets for D.W. Griffith's silent film epic, *Intolerance*. The young men also find themselves American wives, before returning to Europe to fight in the first world war. The Taviani are not much concerned with historical accuracy, more with exploring family relationships and suggesting contrasts between the cathedrals the brothers restore in Europe and the ephemeral structures they help to put up in Hollywood. Vincent Spano and Joachim De Almeida play the emigrants, with Charles Dance contributing a lively portrait of Griffith. Greta Scacchi is one of the wives. **12.15** *Sam the Victor*. The first of three animations is an award-winning work by Derek Hayes and Phil Austin about drugs given to stimulate aggression. **12.30** *Phosphor and Lous*. Jonathan Balfour's under-the-skin story of the star-crossed lovers Ophelia and Eurycleia. **12.35** *Babel*. A five action, special effects celebration of British enterprise and its problems, made by Kevin Wrench, Andrew Franks and David Hopkins. **1.05** *Kevin Wrench, Andrew Franks and David Hopkins*. Ends at 1.05.



Long reign of a management expert: Peter Drucker (7.30pm)



Smooth operators: George Cole and Gary Webster (9.00pm)



Italian-American marriage: two brides for two brothers (10.00pm)

- 6.30** *Waiting for God*. The first of a new series of Michael Aitken's perceptive comedy starring Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole as a couple of eccentric geologists making waves in an old people's home. This episode finds them hatching plans to make the funerals of late residents more like carnivals than solemn occasions. **9.00** *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather. **9.30** *Crimewatch*. A behind-the-scenes look at the police investigation into the nine-year-old murder of Cardiff teenager Karen Price. Her body was found by workmen in a shallow grave in the garden of a basement flat. Forensic scientists made a reconstruction of the girl's face, which was recognised by two social workers. This evidence was screened on *Crimewatch UK* and a viewer's call put the police on the track of the killer. **10.15** *Hospital Watch*. The final visit of the day to HamnerSmith hospital and an example of 'keyhole' surgery is featured. **10.45** *Film: March or Die* (1977) starring Gene Hackman, Terence Hill and Catherine Deneuve. Sluggish, dated adventure yarn about a thief on the run who escapes arrest by joining the Foreign Legion. He finds himself at odds with the commanding officer with whom he is assigned to protect an archaeological dig in Morocco. Directed by Dick Richards. **12.30** *Open University: A New Breed*. The first of a new series of Open University programmes. **12.50** *Open University: The Golden Rule*. Ends at 12.55.

- 7.30** *Business Matters: The Life and Times of Peter Drucker*. A profile of the management guru who is now in his Eighties. Wales: Gardening Together. **8.00** *On the Line*. Anna Walker goes in search of Britain's first Asian football star. Allen Sharpe investigates the finances of the three-year-old Sport Aid charity. The World Cup fair share of their despair at once again being in the shadow of their Glasgow rivals, Rangers. **8.30** *A Year With Fred*. The fifth of six programmes following a year in the life of Bolton steeped in Fred Dibnah. Tonight he is given the task of falling a tall chimney that is so near to houses that the insurance risk is assessed at a million pounds. **9.00** *The Travel Show*. Includes reports on Calvi in Corsica and the last days of Leningrad: Life and Death. This second completion of archive film from Leningrad begins with a special report by Alexander Nevzorov, one of the first journalists to arrive at the scene of a prison shoot-out which left two prisoners dying. **10.20** *600 Seconds*. This edition of the Leningrad news magazine finds dead bodies and tests bullet-proof vests. **10.30** *Newsnight* presented by Peter Snow. **11.15** *Breathless*. Jazz 91. Jude Holland presents American saxophonist Gerry Mulligan. **11.55** *Weather*. **12.00** *Weekend Outlook: A preview of Open University programmes*. **12.05** *Open University: The Golden Rule*. Ends at 12.55.

- 9.00** *Minder*. **9.15** *CHOICE*. Any fears that a marvellous show was being revived once too often are quickly dispelled. Even the loss of Terry, who has done a runner to Australia, is hardly felt as new minder Ray (Gary Webster) moves smoothly into his place. In any case, whatever the original intentions of the series and with respect to Dennis Waterman, Terry was the stooge and not the star. The indispensable heart of *Minder* has always been George Cole's Arthur Daley, the steady face of the enterprise culture and one of television's richest comic creations. Served tonight by a first-class script from David A. Yallop, Arthur is soon on his devious stride, importing dodgy cars from Belgium and keeping half a step ahead of DS Morley (Michael Jay). The new secretary from the old bill. Terry looks to be plenty of life in the old rogue yet. **10.00** *News* at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Alistair Stewart. **10.40** *The City Programme*. The stories in this first of a new series include an analysis of the August figures of "U" registration vehicles. **11.10** *01*. A new series begins with director Spike Lee talking about his film *Do the Right Thing*. **11.40** *Prisoner*. **12.00** *Prisoner*. **12.30** *Prisoner*. **12.50** *Prisoner*. **1.00** *Prisoner*. **1.30** *Prisoner*. **2.00** *Prisoner*. **2.30** *Prisoner*. **3.00** *Prisoner*. **3.30** *Prisoner*. **4.00** *Prisoner*. **4.30 *Prisoner*. **5.00 *Prisoner*. **5.30 *Prisoner*. **6.00 *Prisoner*. **6.30 *Prisoner*. **7.00 *Prisoner*. **7.30 *Prisoner*. **8.00 *Prisoner*. **8.30 *Prisoner*. **9.00 *Prisoner*. **9.30 *Prisoner*. **10.00 *Prisoner*. **10.30 *Prisoner*. **11.00 *Prisoner*. **11.30 *Prisoner*. **12.00 *Prisoner*. **12.30 *Prisoner*. **13.00 *Prisoner*. **13.30 *Prisoner*. **14.00 *Prisoner*. **14.30 *Prisoner*. **15.00 *Prisoner*. **15.30 *Prisoner*. **16.00 *Prisoner*. **16.30 *Prisoner*. **17.00 *Prisoner*. **17.30 *Prisoner*. **18.00 *Prisoner*. **18.30 *Prisoner*. **19.00 *Prisoner*. **19.30 *Prisoner*. **20.00 *Prisoner*. **20.30 *Prisoner*. **21.00 *Prisoner*. **21.30 *Prisoner*. **22.00 *Prisoner*. **22.30 *Prisoner*. **23.00 *Prisoner*. **23.30 *Prisoner*. **24.00 *Prisoner*.**

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- 6.00** *Ceeba's 5.30 Breakfast News*. An up-date on yesterday's reports from HamnerSmith hospital. **9.35** *Perfect Strangers*. American comedy series.
- 10.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **10.05** *Playdays*. **10.30** *Stoppit and Tidyup*. Cartoon. **10.35** *Runaway Am and Andy*. Animated adventures of two mischievous boys.
- 11.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **11.05** *The Reluctant Cook*. News anchor Julia Neuberger prepares something better than her normal only-lighter-than-air cake. **11.30** *Hospital Watch*. This first visit of the day to HamnerSmith hospital focuses on specialist treatments and facilities.
- 12.00** *The Garden Party*. Includes Anne Gregg exploring Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castle on the Northumbrian coast; music from Canada's leading artist Oka Harnoy; and a discussion on whether Britain's zoo should be closed down. Viewers are asked to phone in their vote after hearing opposing views from William Trevelyan of Zoo Check and author Colin Tudge. **12.55** *Regional news and weather*.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* and weather.
- 1.30** *Neighbours*. **1.50** *Macgregor's Scotland*. The last leg of Jimmie Macgregor's walk along the Southern Upland Way covers Leander to Cockburnspath. **2.20** *The Irishman*. **2.40** *Stargate*. Strong drama, set in Twentieth Century, about an Irish seaman who refuses to believe the arrival of the internal combustion engine will make his beloved steam of Ceylon obsolete. Directed by Donald Crombie.
- 4.05** *Cartoon*. **4.10** *The All New Poppy Show*. Two cartoons. **4.30** *Alfonso Bonzo*. Episode three of the six-part children's adventure about a boy with powers to swap at will. **5.00** *News*. Regional news and weather. **5.05** *We Are the Champions*. Presented by Gary Lineker. Teams of disabled youngsters from Northern Ireland in action on the track and the pool. **5.30** *Neighbours*. **5.45** *Stargate*. **6.00** *Stargate*. **6.15** *Regional news and weather*. **6.30** *Regional news and weather*. **6.45** *Stargate*. **7.00** *Hospital Watch*. The second visit of the day to HamnerSmith hospital examines how it has pioneered ways of reducing recovery times after operations. **7.30** *EastEnders*. **8.00** *Allo 'Allo!* Yet another re-run for Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft's French

Zoo to lose 90 jobs and 1,200 animals in survival struggle

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LONDON Zoo is hauling itself back from the edge of extinction, thanks to a £3 million response to its public SOS for cash and promising negotiations with several sponsors which could net a further £40 million.

The improvement in its fortunes, which were low enough at the start of the summer to threaten closure by the end of this month, will mean that only about 1,200 of

the 8,000 animals will have to be found new homes.

The zoo, established by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1826 as The Ark in the Park, disclosed yesterday that the unexpectedly large number of visitors this summer will put it within £500,000 of break-even this financial year after a loss of £1.25 million last year, and that 1992-3 should balance the books. The financial turnaround will mean that such

favourites as the lions, tigers, rhinos, monkeys, elephants and giraffes will stay on display, though in reduced numbers.

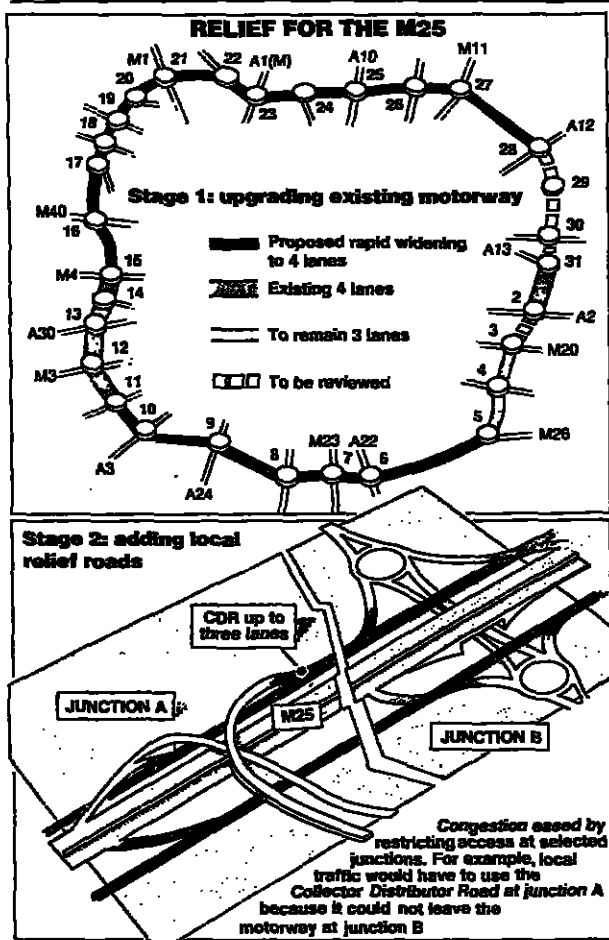
Breaking even is the first objective in the zoo's plan to become a smaller conservation centre while establishing a national collection of species at Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, which will take most of the redundant species from Regent's Park.

David Jones, director of London Zoo, said: "We are very much alive and kicking. We expect next year to be very active, and that will give us time to find ourselves a future. You will not see lots of empty cages next year, we are retaining the animals people most want to see."

The financial improvement at the zoo, which is being advised by the merchant bankers N.M. Rothschild, is largely being brought about by 90 redundancies, a third of the total staff. This will cost the Zoological Society of London £750,000, but will save £1.5 million a year in future.

Mr Jones said the redundancies, which include 25 keepers, had been traumatic but accepted "unavoidably well". He was contradicted, however, by Jerry Tilston, regional organiser for the GMB union: "Many staff feel cheated. We were told at the beginning that cuts would be made from top to bottom, but none of the highly-paid directors has been made redundant. All is not rosy."

Mr Jones said there was a possibility of £30 million-£40 million being invested by an English group and added: "Talks are well advanced; we should have some idea in three to four weeks." There are also discussions with two other groups.



Continued from page 1

roads could, however, be built up to three lanes wide each side of the M25, effectively giving London an American-style 14-lane highway.

Traffic disruption caused by carriageway widening and construction of relief roads will be kept to a minimum by restricting work to off-peak hours. However, the coming-off of some sections of the motorway is likely to be unavoidable, and traffic delays could be severe.

The scheme includes use of traffic lights at some junctions to improve traffic flow on approaches, and installation

of more closed-circuit television monitors to give police an accurate picture of conditions. Additional lighting will also be provided.

Each section of the original three-lane M25, which took 20 years to build and cost about £1 billion, was designed to carry up to 88,000 vehicles a day. At present, some sections regularly carry 145,000 vehicles a day, and a few have had 164,000 a day.

Mr Chope said that the plans were "a major step forward in tackling the immediate problems of congestion."

Leading article, page 17



Soldiering on: the last of the Greenham peace women continuing their protest yesterday, stunned by residents intent on fighting their own fight

Greenham base battle fought under new flag

By LIN JENKINS

THE strident and colourful banners that flap in the wind against a backdrop of dull wire mesh recall the time ten years ago today when a group of women arrived at Greenham Common after marching from Wales, and decided to stay.

After a decade, their messages make confusing reading. With the Cold War over, the cruise missiles gone, and the dream of a sisterhood fractured, there seems little reason to stay. It is not without irony that residents have noted a new banner — "Common land or War base. It's for you to choose" — at the camp.

Those who complained for years about the women and their effects on house prices would rather fight the latest Greenham Common battle

alone. In pursuing their campaign to have the site restored to common land, and to retain the rights of commoners to graze livestock and collect firewood and gravel, they have rejected anything resembling the peace women's tactics.

Chris Austin, aged 35, runs the action group Commons Again, which will hear soon whether they have been granted leave to seek a judicial review of the government's decision to buy commoners' rights with £80,000 delivered to Greenham in May. He believes the government acted illegally in building the base and fears that the defence ministry will sell the land to developers once the site is no longer needed.

For the ministry, the landed element at Greenham is proving every bit as difficult as the women's

groups. Enclosed under emergency powers in 1941, the common was reopened at the end of the war only to be requisitioned in 1948 and finally bought from Newbury borough council in 1960. At the time nothing was done for commoners' rights.

"They are trying now to take away commoners' rights when there appears to be no real need," Mr Austin said. "Most commoners are Tories living in chintzy houses along the edge who never objected when it was a base, but things are different now."

The deadline for a compromise, in which commoners gave up rights on land inside the base and agreed not to exercise rights on land outside while the base remains under military control, was extended to two years, but not everyone could agree. Roy Swayne, chairman of the Com-

moners' Committee, representing the 34 properties with rights, said the ministry chose to buy out everyone when a handful rejected the offer.

He is still taking legal advice on how to divide £80,000 between 34 people. "While we support the judicial review application, most commoners voted early on not to go to the law because of the expense and the chances of success. Even so, we would rather retain our rights."

The rights of those commoners at the east end of the base, on Crookham Common, have not yet been bought and Mr Austin believes the law allows for the fence to be cut. "It would be an interesting symbolic gesture to test whether the commoners really did have this right, but we don't want to be tarred with the same brush as the peace women."

Hurd saves career despite the mist

Continues from page 1

trast to the fracas as security men in Peking roughed up the crowd on his single lunge into walkabout, the prime minister was clapped and cheered amid a sea of expectant olive faces, many of them showing the watchfulness that comes from frequent disappointment.

As four-year-olds sang in Vietnamese a song to the tune of *Frère Jacques*, Norma Major was told that half the children among the camp's

6,000 inmates had been born since their parents arrived there. "What else is there for them to do", one official said sorrowfully.

Mr Major, who tramped the urine-smelling concrete in the same blue trousers and deck shoes he had sported aboard President Bush's speedboat in

Kennebunkport, was clearly moved, enough to confide in officials later that he will telephone the president this week to urge him once more to

reconsider American policy towards Vietnam.

Without a nod from America the internationally managed centres that Britain would like to set up in Vietnam to enable the boat people to be returned to their own country in guaranteed safety will never come about.

Mr Major had begun his day journeying some 70 miles out of Peking to see the Great Wall of China. Sadly for Mr Major, though the guide books talk of

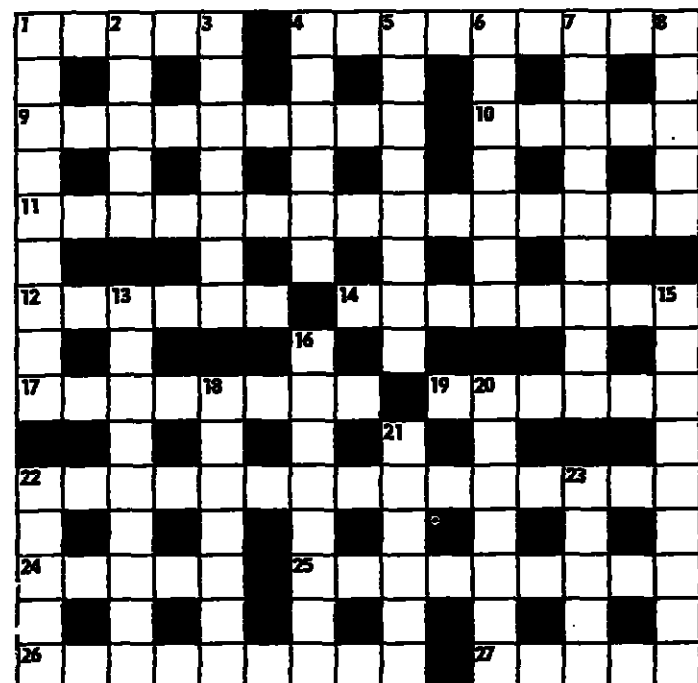
the Great Wall proudly as the only man-made object visible from satellites in orbit, there was a heavy mist and nobody could see anything at more than 50ft.

The canard ran around the party that the viewing site had been selected by the foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, who ducked out of the expedition. When I checked later, however, he assured me it was none of his doing. Another ministerial career saved.

THE SATURDAY AGENDA

On Saturday *The Times* comes with an added ingredient: *Weekend Times*. Not just more to read but more to do. Not more to keep you in but more to get you out (if only as far as the garden). A 16-page colour section full of ideas, for adults and children. Places to visit, for an hour or a whole weekend. Things to eat, drink, plant, make, watch, hear. If that sounds exhausting, sit back and read: about the Japanese (what are they up to?), about entertainment (what's hot and what's not), *Weekend Times*, this and every Saturday, perfectly complements *The Times Saturday Review* and unrivalled news, sport and business coverage. Order *The Times* today to be sure of it on Saturday

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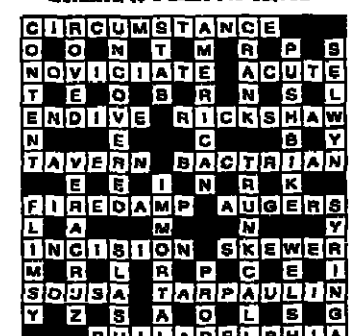
ACROSS

- 1 I contributed to medical treatment (5).
- 4 Army music unsuitable for the fleet (4,5).
- 9 Take part in talks — manage to get through (9).
- 10 Agreement from Russian to have tea in his cottage (5).
- 11 Someone we both know and like? That's novel (3,6,6).
- 12 Admiral's desire to get back on the staff (6).
- 14 Primitive French philosopher (8).
- 17 Having what it takes, egghead indulged in repartee (8).
- 19 Vicious circle for minister, perhaps (6).
- 22 Damage to plane, it appears, I have to carefully fix, for example (3,10).

DOWN

- 1 100 students in a large hall (9).
- 2 Boy confirming signal success (5).
- 3 Fire, then change employment (7).
- 4 Really excellent pals? (4,2).
- 5 Fail to notice finished appearance (8).
- 6 People today get bloody upset in battle (7).
- 7 Criminal always appearing shortly after disturbance (9).
- 8 Tried vigorously to embrace sweetheart (5).
- 13 Pair work for the highest position on board (6,3).
- 15 Character of Lear appears dimly, in a word (9).
- 16 Ancient hero slain — ode composed for him? (6).
- 18 Lightly touch girl — on the knee, that is (7).
- 20 Dial stopped working? (4,3).
- 21 Omit a line in the yearbook (6).
- 22 Animated music beginning initially in South America (5).
- 23 Clubs in which one doesn't want to be clapped (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,702



Concise Crossword, page 19

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

FARANDINE

- a. A dress of silk and wool
- b. Barley grass
- c. An electrical carriage

VINA

- a. The Portuguese vintage
- b. A Finnish cross-country skate
- c. A double Indian tyre

OVIBOS

- a. The Morris dancers' dragon
- b. The milk-ox
- c. Mutton and dumpling stew

CERRIS

- a. Cherry brandy
- b. A loophole in fortification
- c. The turkey oak

Answers on page 20

ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

LONDON & SE

C. London (within N & S Circles)	731
M25/roads M4-M1	732
M25/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M25/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M25/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 86p per minute (cheap rate) and 46p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Scotland will be cloudy at first with a few outbreaks of light rain but will turn brighter. This cloudy weather will reach the Midlands by dusk. Further south, early mist and low cloud will soon give way to sunshine. The South will again be very warm, and the cloudier North cooler. Outlook: cooler everywhere; mainly dry and bright.

MIDDAY: 1-moon, 2-dizzle, 3-fog, 4-sun, 5-clear, 6-moon, 7-fog, 8-sun, 9-clear, 10-moon, 11-fog, 12-sun, 13-clear, 14-moon, 15-fog, 16-sun, 17-clear, 18-moon, 19-fog, 20-sun, 21-clear, 22-moon, 23-fog, 24-sun, 25-clear, 26-moon, 27-fog, 28-sun, 29-clear, 30-moon, 31-fog, 32-sun, 33-clear, 34-moon, 35-fog, 36-sun, 37-clear, 38-moon, 39-fog, 40-sun, 41-clear, 42-moon, 43-fog, 44-sun, 45-clear, 46-moon, 47-fog, 48-sun, 49-clear, 50-moon, 51-fog, 52-sun, 53-clear, 54-moon, 55-fog, 56-sun, 57-clear, 58-moon, 59-fog, 60-sun, 61-clear, 62-moon, 63-fog, 64-sun, 65-clear, 66-moon, 67-fog, 68-sun, 69-clear, 70-moon, 71-fog, 72-sun, 73-clear, 74-moon, 75-fog, 76-sun, 77-clear, 78-moon, 79-fog, 80-sun, 81-clear, 82-moon, 83-fog, 84-sun, 85-clear, 86-moon, 87-fog, 88-sun, 89-clear, 90-moon, 91-fog, 92-sun, 93-clear, 94-moon, 95-fog, 96-sun, 97-clear, 98-moon, 99-fog, 100-sun, 101-clear, 102-moon, 103-fog, 104-sun, 105-clear, 106-moon, 107-fog, 108-sun, 109-clear, 110-moon, 111-fog, 112-sun, 113-clear, 114-moon, 115-fog, 116-sun, 117-clear, 118-moon, 119-fog, 120-sun, 121-clear, 122-moon, 123-fog, 124-sun, 125-clear, 126-moon, 127-fog, 128-sun, 129-clear, 130-moon, 131-fog, 132-sun, 133-clear, 134-moon, 135-fog, 136-sun, 137-clear, 138-moon, 139-fog, 140-sun, 141-clear, 142-moon, 143-fog, 144-sun, 145-clear, 146-moon, 147-fog, 148-sun, 149-clear, 150-moon, 151-fog, 152-sun, 153-clear, 154-moon, 155-fog, 156-sun, 157-clear, 158-moon, 159-fog, 160-sun, 161-clear, 162-moon, 163-fog, 164-sun, 165-clear, 166-moon, 167-fog, 168-sun, 169-clear, 170-moon, 171-fog, 172-sun, 173-clear, 174-moon, 175-fog, 176-sun, 177-clear, 178-moon, 179-fog, 180-sun, 181-clear, 182-moon, 183-fog, 184-sun, 185-clear, 186-moon, 187-fog, 188-sun, 189-clear, 190-moon, 191-fog, 192-sun, 193-clear, 194-moon, 195-fog, 196-sun, 197-clear, 198-moon, 199-fog, 200-sun, 201-clear, 202-moon, 203-fog, 204-sun, 205-clear, 206-moon, 207-fog, 208-sun, 209-clear, 210-moon, 211-fog, 212-sun, 213-clear, 214-moon, 215-fog, 216-sun, 217-clear, 218-moon, 219-fog, 220-sun, 221-clear, 222-moon, 223-fog, 224-sun, 225-clear, 226-moon, 227-fog, 228-sun, 229-clear, 230-moon, 231-fog, 232-sun, 233-clear, 234-moon, 235-fog, 236-sun, 237-clear, 238-moon, 239-fog, 240-sun, 241-clear, 242-moon, 243-fog, 244-sun, 245-clear, 246-moon, 247-fog, 248-sun, 249-clear, 250-moon, 251-fog, 252-sun, 253-clear, 254-moon, 255-fog, 256-sun, 257-clear, 258-moon, 259-fog, 260-sun, 261-clear, 262-moon, 263-fog, 264-sun, 265-clear, 266-moon, 267-fog, 268-sun, 269-clear, 270-moon, 271-fog, 272-sun, 273-clear, 274-moon, 275-fog, 276-sun, 277-clear, 278-moon, 279-fog, 280-sun, 281-clear, 282-moon, 283-fog, 284-sun, 285-clear, 286-moon, 287-fog, 288-sun, 289-clear, 290-moon, 291-fog, 292-sun, 293-clear, 294-moon, 295-fog, 296-sun, 297-clear, 298-moon, 299-fog, 300-sun, 301-clear, 302-moon, 303-fog, 304-sun, 305-clear, 306-moon, 307-fog, 308-sun, 309-clear, 310-moon, 311-fog, 312-sun, 313-clear, 314-moon, 315-fog, 316-sun, 317-clear, 318-moon, 319-fog, 320-sun, 321-clear, 322-moon, 323-fog, 324-sun, 325-clear, 326-moon, 327-fog, 328-sun, 329-clear, 330-moon, 331-fog, 332-sun, 333-clear, 334-moon, 335-fog, 336-sun, 337-clear, 338-moon, 339-fog, 340-sun, 341-clear, 342-moon, 343-fog, 344-sun, 345-clear, 346-moon, 347-fog, 348-sun, 349-clear, 350-moon, 351-fog, 352-sun, 353-clear, 354-moon, 355-fog, 356-sun, 357-clear, 358-moon, 359-fog, 360-sun, 361-clear, 362-moon, 363-fog, 364-sun, 365-clear, 366-moon, 367-fog, 368-sun, 369-clear, 370-moon, 371-fog, 372-sun, 373-clear, 374-moon, 375-fog, 376-sun, 377-clear, 378-moon, 379-fog, 380-sun, 381-clear, 382-moon, 383-fog, 384-sun, 385-clear, 386-moon, 387-fog, 388-sun, 389-clear, 390-moon, 391-fog, 392-sun, 393-clear, 394-moon, 395-fog, 396-sun, 397-clear, 398-moon, 399-fog, 400-sun, 401-clear, 402-moon, 403-fog, 404-sun, 405-clear, 406-moon, 407-fog, 408-sun, 409-clear, 410-moon, 411-fog, 412-sun, 413-clear, 414-moon, 415-fog, 416-sun, 417-clear, 418-moon, 419-fog, 420-sun, 421-clear, 422-moon, 423-fog, 424-sun, 425-clear, 426-moon, 427-fog, 428-sun, 429-clear, 430-moon, 431-fog, 432-sun, 433-clear, 434-moon, 435-fog, 436-sun, 437-clear, 438-moon, 439-fog, 440-sun, 441-clear, 442-moon, 443-fog, 444-sun, 445-clear, 446-moon, 447-fog, 448-sun, 449-clear, 450-moon, 451-fog, 452-sun, 453-clear, 454-moon, 455-fog, 456-sun, 457-clear, 458-moon, 459-fog, 460-sun, 461-clear, 462-moon, 463-fog, 464-sun, 465-clear, 466-moon, 467-fog, 468-sun, 469-clear, 470-moon, 471-fog, 472-sun, 473-clear, 474-moon, 475-fog, 476-sun, 477-clear, 478-moon, 479-fog, 480-sun, 481-clear, 482-moon, 483-fog, 484-sun, 485-clear, 486-moon, 487-fog, 488-sun, 489-clear, 490-moon, 491-fog, 492-sun, 493-clear, 494-moon, 495-fog, 496-sun, 497-clear, 498-moon, 499-fog, 500-sun, 501-clear, 502-moon, 503-fog, 504-sun, 505-clear, 506-moon, 507-fog, 508-sun, 509-clear, 510-moon, 511-fog, 512-sun, 513-clear, 514-moon, 515-fog, 516-sun, 517-clear, 518-moon, 519-fog, 520-sun, 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623-fog, 624-sun, 625-clear, 626-moon, 627-fog, 628-sun, 629-clear, 630-moon, 631-fog, 632-sun, 633-clear, 634-moon, 635-fog, 636-sun, 637-clear, 638-moon, 639-fog, 640-sun, 641-clear, 642-moon, 643-fog, 644-sun, 645-clear, 646-moon, 647-fog, 648-sun, 649-clear, 650-moon, 651-fog, 652-sun, 653-clear, 654-moon, 655-fog, 656-sun, 657-clear, 658-moon, 659-fog, 660-sun, 661-clear, 662-moon, 663-fog, 664-sun, 665-clear, 666-moon, 667-fog, 668-sun, 669-clear, 670-moon, 671-fog, 672-sun, 673-clear, 674-moon, 675-fog, 676-sun, 677-clear, 678-moon, 679-fog, 680-sun, 681-clear, 682-moon, 683-fog, 684-sun, 685-clear, 686-moon, 687-fog, 688-sun, 689-clear, 690-moon, 691-fog, 692-sun, 693-clear, 694-moon, 695-fog, 696-sun, 697-clear, 698-moon, 699-fog, 700-sun, 701-clear, 702-moon, 703-fog, 704-sun, 705-clear, 706-moon, 707-fog, 708-sun, 709-clear, 710-moon, 711-fog, 712-sun, 713-clear, 714-moon, 715-fog, 716-sun, 717-clear, 718-moon, 719-fog, 720-sun, 721-clear, 722-moon, 723-fog, 724-sun, 725-clear, 726-moon, 727-fog, 728-sun, 729-clear, 730-moon, 731-fog, 732-sun, 733-clear, 734-moon, 735-fog, 736-sun, 737-clear, 738-moon, 739-fog, 740-sun, 741-clear, 742-moon, 743-fog, 744-sun, 745-clear, 746-moon, 747-fog, 748-sun, 749-clear, 750-moon, 751-fog, 752-sun, 753-clear, 754-moon, 755-fog, 756-sun, 757-clear, 758-moon, 759-fog, 760-sun, 761-clear, 762-moon, 763-fog, 764-sun, 765-clear, 766-moon, 767-fog, 768-sun, 769-clear, 770-moon, 771-fog, 772-sun, 773-clear, 774-moon, 775-fog, 776-sun, 777-clear, 778-moon, 779-fog, 780-sun, 781-clear, 782-moon, 783-fog, 784-sun, 785-clear, 786-moon, 787-fog, 788-sun, 789-clear, 790-moon, 791-fog, 792-sun, 793-clear, 794-moon, 795-fog, 796-sun, 797-clear, 798-moon, 799-fog, 800-sun, 801-clear, 802-moon, 803-fog, 804-sun, 805-clear, 806-moon, 807-fog, 808-sun, 809-clear, 810-moon, 811-fog, 812-sun, 813-clear, 814-moon, 815-fog, 816-sun, 817-clear, 818-moon, 819-fog, 820-sun, 821-clear, 822-moon, 823-fog, 824-sun, 825-clear, 826-moon, 827-fog, 828-sun, 829-clear, 830-moon, 831-fog, 832-sun, 833-clear, 834-moon, 835-fog, 836-sun, 837-clear, 838-moon, 839-fog, 840-sun, 841-clear, 842-moon, 843-fog, 844-sun, 845-clear,

George Wimpey slumps to £200,000

GEORGE Wimpey, the housebuilder and construction group, has reported first-half profits of £200,000, little more than the price of the average London townhouse.

The tiny pre-tax profit was earned on sales of £846 million. The stock market reacted by marking Wimpey's shares 7p higher at 178p, in the belief that the figures could only improve.

An extraordinary loss of £7.8 million on discontinued activities dragged Wimpey to an £8.4 million attributable loss for the six months to end-June. An unchanged interim dividend of 4p is being paid.

Sir Clifford Chetwood, Wimpey's chairman, said there were no miracle solutions.

Wimpey's forward order book stands at £900 million, 10 per cent down on last year. Joe Dwyer, who took over from Sir Clifford as chief executive at the end of last year, said Wimpey had no plans for a rights issue. His strategy, he added, was to bring down borrowings, which, at the half-year end stood at £372 million, through disposals. *Times*, page 25

Coats falls 12% to £48.1m

Coats Vytella is making "excellent progress" in integrating its threads operations with those of Tootal, the rival textile group it acquired in May.

Sir David Alliance, the chairman of Coats, announced interim pre-tax profits for the half year to end-June of £48.1 million, down 12 per cent on the £54.9 million recorded in the previous half year. Earnings per share were down from 4.98p to 4.28p and the interim dividend was held at 3p. *Times*, page 25

US dollar 1.6945 (+0.0010)

German mark 2.9433 (same)

Exchange index 91.0 (same)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 2094.2 (-2.2)

FT-SE 100 2664.6 (-4.4)

New York Dow Jones 3010.96 (-6.71)

Tokyo Nikkei Avege 22402.68 (-67.11)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

FALLS:

Closing Prices...Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%

3 month interbank 10 1/4%

3 month eligible bills 9 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%

Federal Funds 6 1/4%

3 month Treasury Bills 5 3/4%

30 year bonds 100 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London:

Government drops Salomon as manager in sale of BT stake

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT IN LONDON AND SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, has dropped Salomon Brothers from its role in the government's planned sale of state-owned BT shares this autumn, to avoid political embarrassment after disclosure of Salomon's breach of rules on American bond auctions.

The Treasury has formally released Salomon from its obligations as American lead manager for the issue, which is being coordinated globally by SG Warburg. The Treasury will announce a replacement, expected to be another leading American securities group, within the next few days.

James Massey, chairman of Salomon Brothers Europe, said: "We regret that Her

Majesty's Government found it necessary to make this decision. The new management at Salomon Brothers has dealt speedily and effectively with the violations which came to light a few weeks ago." He hoped that Salomon, which was involved in earlier privatisations, would receive more government business in future.

The sacking of Salomon became more likely when it was disclosed that its malpractices in America involved the use of the names of leading British institutional investors. The government is believed to have been urged by other advisers to remove Salomon from the issue, even though the British end of its business was not implicated in the American bond auction violations. Salomon, based in New

York, is reviewing its part in auctions of US government bonds back to January of last year, a congressional sub-committee heard yesterday. An internal inquiry has looked at the group's activities in 45 auctions dating from July, 1990.

In a report to the House sub-committee on telecommunications and finance, Salomon yesterday said its delay in telling regulators of the scandal "remains inexplicable and inexcusable". The company has lost several big international customers as a result of the scandal.

The Bush administration and Congress are pressing for tighter rules for the Treasury's auction of billions of dollars of debt, after the discovery this summer of the bond trading scandal. A House sub-

committee yesterday began the first of at least four congressional hearings into the bidding by Salomon in the names of customers without their knowledge and on more securities than permitted by government regulations. America's Securities and Exchange Commission, which oversees activities on Wall Street, has issued more than 135 subpoenas and other requests for information in its investigation of the firm's behaviour.

Richard Breeden, the SEC chairman, has told one House committee, that his agency would study the need for tougher regulation of the government securities market.

Salomon last month admitted placing illegal bids at US Treasury auctions. In a letter, Mr Breeden said that several months

of silence from top Salomon officials who knew about the manipulation, including John Gutfreund, the former chairman, raised "serious questions" about whether the firm "appeared to tolerate or even to encourage" wrongdoing. In another letter to a Senate panel, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, said the central bank knew nothing about the extent of Salomon's illegal actions for months.

The Treasury, meanwhile, has said that officials will report to Congress within 90 days with recommendations to tighten securities auctions rules.

Warren Buffett, the interim chairman of Salomon, was due to testify, along with Mr Breeden and officials from the Fed and Treasury, on Capitol Hill yesterday.

Quick response from top lenders

Home loan rate cut for 3m borrowers

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Halifax and the Abbey National, the two largest mortgage lenders, moved swiftly to reduce their mortgage rates after yesterday's base rate cut, indicating they had been ready for an announcement. Almost 3 million borrowers will benefit.

Analysts suggested that the new rates had been in place for a couple of weeks, waiting for the "expected" half-point cut. John Wriglesworth, building society analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "I don't think they were taken by surprise. They had decided their conditional strategy and this just

had to be ratified." He dismissed suggestions that the lenders had been tipped off by the government.

Other lenders have yet to announce details of their rates, although the National & Provincial, the eighth largest society, said it would drop its rate to 11.5 per cent.

The Halifax's new rate is 11.5 per cent, a cut of 0.45 per cent. This will save borrowers with a £60,000 mortgage £16.98 a month. Those with a loan of £30,000 will save £6.93. Rates for first-time buyer discounts and mortgages of more than £60,000 have yet to be set.

Only new borrowers will benefit immediately. The 1.2

million borrowers whose mortgages are reviewed annually had their payments adjusted only this month, based on a rate of 11.95 per cent. The first payment at this new rate was made last Monday. They will not feel the benefit of yesterday's drop until next April, when they start making next year's payment.

The Halifax's 500,000 existing borrowers not on annual review will benefit next month.

David Gilchrist, the Halifax's general manager, corporate development, said: "We are acting in the interests of the housing market but prices will probably be fairly static until the end of the year. We are sticking to our forecast that house prices will go up by up to 3 per cent by the end of the year. The effect of the falls in mortgage rates will work their way through slowly. We have to fight against a general recession, unemployment and fear of unemployment."

The Abbey National has shaved 0.4 per cent off mortgages for loans of less than £60,000, bringing the rate down to 11.55 per cent. Borrowers with loans of between £60,000 and £100,000 will pay 10.85 per cent, a cut of 0.3 per cent. Those borrowing more than £100,000 will pay 10.6 per cent. First-time buyers will receive a 1.5 per cent discount on all the new rates. New borrowers will be offered the lower rate immediately. Existing borrowers have to wait until next month.

John Bayliss, Abbey's managing director, said: "We have made the cut mainly to assist existing borrowers. We want to help the bottom of the market and feel that first-time buyers are the key to the whole market."

The Abbey is likely to cut rates again if there is another half-point cut in the next few weeks.

National & Provincial rates will fall 0.45 per cent. The Leeds Permanent, the fifth largest society, is to cut its rates by at least 0.4 per cent, but is considering holding out for another rate cut in the next few weeks.

Eagle Star spoils BAT's first half

By JOHN BELL, BUSINESS EDITOR

HEAVY losses at Eagle Star, the insurance group, hit profits of BAT Industries in the first half of the year. They fell almost a quarter, to £413 million but the board, headed by Sir Patrick Sheehy, raised dividends for the first half by 8 per cent to 22.4p.

The first-half decline was far more severe than expected, Sir Patrick said. He blamed the impact of the recession on small business, property, banks and building societies for the "abnormally heavy provisions" made by Eagle Star on its domestic mortgage indemnity business.

Although Eagle Star has ceased to write certain property-related business, Sir Patrick said that it was impossible to be anything other than pessimistic about Eagle Star's general business in the short term. But the group's other financial services businesses, the American group Farmers, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star's life operations, made progress in difficult trading conditions.

The trading profit contribution from financial services was just £66 million after a

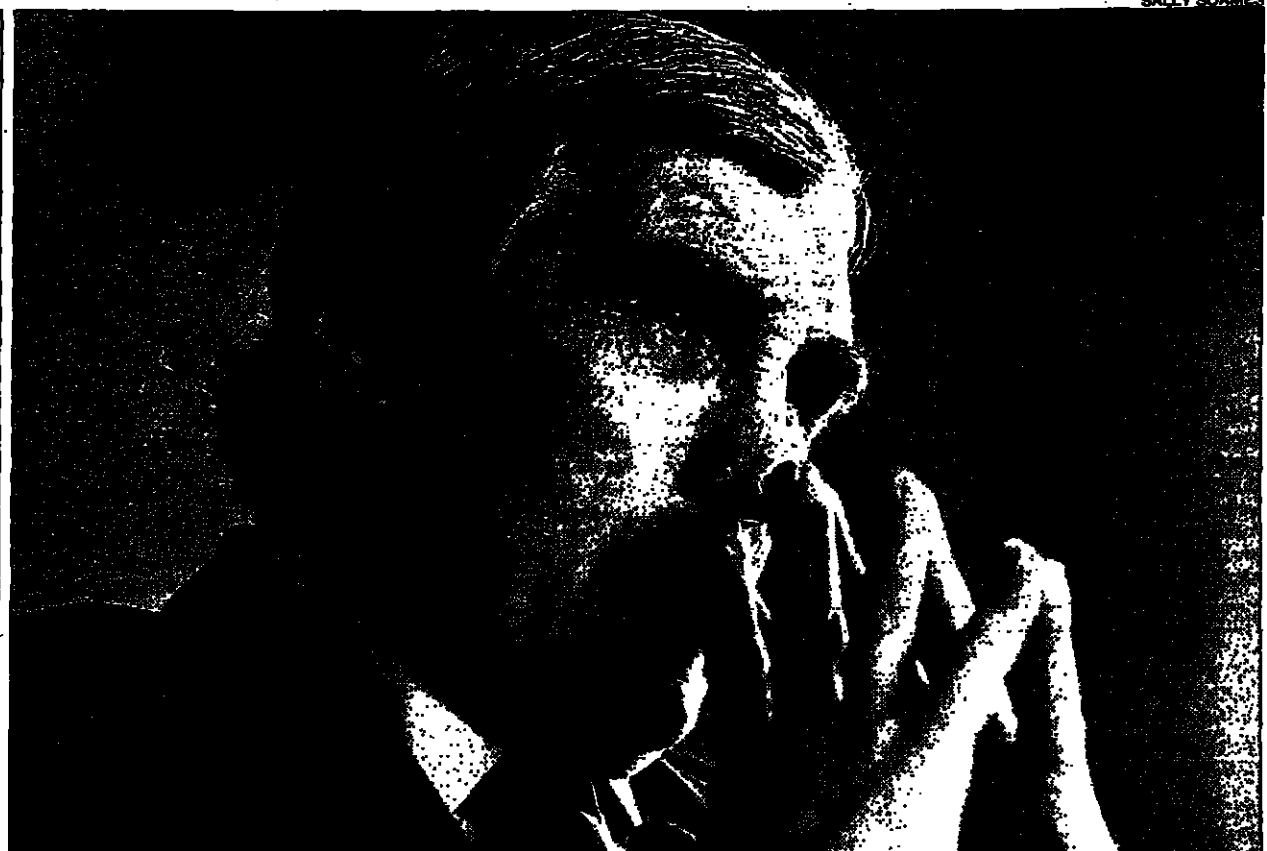
pre-tax loss of £189 million from Eagle Star. Last year Eagle Star turned in profits of £21 million in the first six months.

Falls in property values and increased repossessions led to a loss on domestic mortgage insurance business of £121 million. Provisions have been made on estimated claims for properties which have been repossessed but not yet sold.

The group's tobacco trading profits rose 5 per cent to £453 million and volumes were 3 per cent higher. In the US Brown & Williamson's profits were affected by special factors which should not have an impact on the full-year result.

Net interest payments declined from £148 million to £82 million, largely through the restructuring of the group last year. Earnings per share fell sharply from 19.2p to 10p. George Greener is joining Allied Dunbar from Mars Corporation to become chief executive. He has been managing director of the UK confectionery business at Mars since 1986.

Comment, page 25



Accountable: auditors reported an 18 per cent pay rise for George Walker, the former Brent Walker chairman

Walker paid £606,000 last year

By ANGELA MACKAY

BRENT Walker's long-awaited 1990 annual report was released yesterday, containing one of the strongest auditors' qualifications witnessed by the City and news that George Walker, the company's deposed chairman and chief executive, was given an 18 per cent pay rise to boost his salary to £606,000.

In their report, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock and Leigh Carr said they were "unable to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair state of affairs of the company and the group at 31 December 1990 and of the loss and source and application of funds of the group for the year then ended".

They said the financial statements were prepared on the basis that the group would continue as a going concern and the validity of this assumption was dependent on the successful conclusion of the refinancing agreement with Brent Walker's 47 banks.

If this could not be accomplished and the group passed into receivership, the auditors said "significant adjustments would have to be made to reduce the value of the group's assets to their realisable amounts... to provide for any further liabilities".

This largely refers to note 11 in the accounts, where the value of William Hill, the betting agency, and Pubmaster, the public house business, have been carried at a net book value of £1,068 billion which directors said was "significantly" in excess of their current market value.

The rest of the company's property assets have been revalued on an open market basis and this resulted in assets being cut by £200 million.

While Brent Walker's restyled board led by Lord Kindsley, the chairman, is still confident a deal can be struck, there are several obstacles including obtaining the consent of temperamental bondholders who invested for £102 million in November, and the conclusion of the Power Corp joint venture where Brent Walker will swap its 50 per cent interest in the

Trocadero in Piccadilly for other property assets.

Another wild card was thrown in last week when the chairman requested a Serious Fraud Squad investigation after an internal review of the company's past accounts. The restated results show the company made a pre-tax loss of £117 million in 1990.

What the report and accounts make clear for the first time is the extent of the damage done to Brent Walker's French and Spanish subsidiaries. These primarily involve leisure developments in northern France at Le

Touquet and at Puerto Sherry in Spain.

In addition to Mr Walker's salary, the accounts show Wilfred Aquilina, former group finance director, was paid £500,000 after he resigned last December.

The report also points out the group is still owed £15 million by Jasar, one of Mr Walker's family companies, which bought Brent Walker's French wine companies for £50 million in 1989. Brent Walker also owes one of the wine companies £10.2 million, but neither amount may be offset against the other.

FULLY MANAGED CURRENCY MORTGAGES: EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.

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Scholey bows out at British Steel

By GEORGE SIVELL

SIR Robert Scholey, the irascible chairman of British Steel, finally confirmed yesterday what many had expected for a while, that he is to retire soon.

The gruff Yorkshireman, nicknamed "Black Bob" for his job-cutting abilities, will be aged 70 in October, and said he will retire in July 1992, after the company's annual meeting. He is to be replaced by Sir Alistair Frame, who was appointed a non-executive director of British Steel yesterday and who will take up the chairmanship in July.

Until last year, Sir Alistair, now aged 62, was chairman of RTZ, the metals and mining group. He is presently part-time executive chairman of Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group. British Steel sources last night were unsure as to Sir Alistair's exact role at British Steel, but indicated he would be part-time chairman. The shares fell 2p to 126 1/2p.

Sir Robert's retirement follows the surprise departure in May of Martin Llewarch, the chief executive, who was thought of within the company as the future chairman. But Brian Moffat,



Sir Robert: attacked over closures

Villiers, Ian MacGregor and Sir Robert Haslam come and go.

On the burning issue earlier this summer of executive pay Sir Robert Scholey was typically forthright. He enjoyed a rise of 79 per cent to £308,751 in 1989-90 but of 1991 he said "I won't be getting any more this year. I think there have been some silly pay settlements."

Sir Alistair has spent much of his career in the metals industry, having joined RTZ in 1968, becoming chief executive in 1978, and executive chairman in 1985. When he stepped down as chairman in 1989 he said ten years was long enough in the most senior position.

The recent past at British Steel has been chequered. As well as having to cope with the deep recession in the United Kingdom, Sir Robert has been under attack from the Scottish lobby for closures north of the border. He has faced criticism in the City for not landing the "big" European deal that British Steel is thought to need to diversify away from the cyclical United Kingdom. Talks with Bethlehem Steel in America have become protracted.

Senior rise bucks the trend

REDUCED costs and better margins helped Senior Engineering Group to buck the depressed trend in the engineering industry. First-half profits advanced 7.6 per cent.

The group unveiled pre-tax profits of £8.77 million (£8.15 million) in the six months to end-June. That was helped by lower interest charges of £117,000 (£529,000).

Don McFarlane, deputy chairman and managing director, said the company had recovered well and had benefited from increasing overseas activity, particularly in continental Europe.

Construction services had more than offset the downturn in engineering products.

Group turnover was down by 9.2 per cent to £142.3 million (£156.6 million), with about a third of the total overseas.

The interim dividend has been increased to 1.2p (1.08p). Earnings per share climbed to 3.15p (3.10p). The shares rose 24p to 74p.

JSE chief to go

Tony Norton, president of the Johannesburg stock exchange, is to go down next April. Mr Norton has been criticised over the cost of upgrading trading and settlement equipment at the exchange.

Swedish stake

John Brown, a Trafalgar House subsidiary, has acquired for an undisclosed sum 30.6 per cent of Chematec International, of Sweden, which provides engineering services for the chemical industry.

Nuclear firms agree £13bn supply deal

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAUER/BRITISH BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

NUCLEAR Electric, the nuclear power station operator, and British Nuclear Fuels have agreed a £13 billion 15-year deal over the supply of nuclear fuel at fixed prices.

The agreement, hailed by the companies as "one of the biggest commercial deals negotiated between two companies anywhere in the world", covers the supply of fuel to Nuclear Electric's Magnox and advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs). Fixed prices will replace the existing cost-plus pricing arrangement.

John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, said the deal had ended the uncertainty over the cost of fuel supply and reprocessing.

He added: "We are committed to driving our costs down. We shall have a clearer idea of what our fuel cycle costs will be in the years ahead."

Fixed prices will also represent a reduction in total cost, but Mr Collier would not say whether this would affect electricity prices.

Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of BNFL, said the deal marked "a revolution in our trading relationship". Negotiations were delayed because of the shake-up in the electricity industry, during which nuclear power stations moved from the Central Electricity Generating Board to National Power, but were subsequently withdrawn from privatisation when the current Nuclear Electric company was formed.

Sir Christopher said that some of the risks that might result from changes in regulation were underwritten by the government, but he declined to give details.

The new agreement also contains an inflation clause. SCOTTISH Nuclear, which runs atomic power plants, believes reprocessing of spent fuel is uneconomic and environmentally undesirable (see Tieman writes).

The company has applied for approval from the Scottish Office to store up to 2,000 tonnes of used fuel from its four advanced gas-cooled reactors alongside its power stations.

If the Scottish Office approves the plan, a public inquiry will be held.

SCOTTISH Nuclear said reprocessing fuel cost it more than £40 million last year, or 20 per cent of operating costs. Storing spent fuel would cut costs sharply, helping atomic plants to become more competitive.

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'Industrial markets at a low': Colin Hope, chairman

T&N plunges 56%

THE recession in Europe and America hit T&N, the motor and engineering components group, harder in the first half of this year than in the second half of 1990, despite a modest recovery in profits on the motor side in Britain and America, where T&N bought the JPI group 12 months ago.

Pre-tax profits were down 56 per cent at £20.3 million. Earnings fell to 2.82p per share (11p). The interim dividend is maintained at 3.6p.

Colin Hope, the chairman, said that aerospace and other industrial markets had suffered later and were still at a low.

Group interim pre-tax profits were in line with market expectations at £77.6 million, down 2 per cent. However, earnings per share fell by 18 per cent to 9.41p as a result of greatly increased minority interests following acquisitions made in the second half of last year. The interim dividend is up by 10 pence to 2.2p.

Hilldown also announced a strengthening of its board with the appointment of Sir John Nott, the former defence secretary and chairman of Lazard Brothers, as a non-executive director. In addition, Tony Brice, who is an executive director, is to become a non-executive director.

The shares rose 10p to 249p.

Canadian offshoot boosts Hillsdown

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SHARP improvement in the performance of Hillsdown Holdings' new Canadian subsidiary has largely offset the effects of the "extremely adverse" trading conditions faced by the group's frozen chicken operations in the first half of the year.

Hillsdown acquired a 56 per cent stake in Maple Leaf Foods (formerly known as Canada Packers) in June last year. It said that in the first six months of this year Maple Leaf had improved margins by 23 per cent to 4 per cent and post-tax profits by 83 per cent.

Most of the group's other operations faced difficult trading conditions during the half, with the poultry and egg division the hardest hit. Operating profits from the division slumped from £25.8 million to £13.5 million. Hillsdown said that the performance of UK frozen chickens had been affected by "poor prices due to oversupply and a disrupted market".

Other divisions to feel the effects of the recession were furniture, which saw operating profits slide from £8.5 million to £3.7 million, and house-building and property (profits down from £17.9 million to £16.5 million).

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Isle of Man Steam Packet 25% ahead

THE Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, the Manx ferry operator that was the target of a failed £17.25 million bid by Sea Containers, is raising its interim dividend 50 per cent to 3p (2p). This follows a 25 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £821,000 (£656,000) in the six months to end-June.

Norman Corlett, chairman, said that the decision in June by the Manx government not to legislate against a takeover meant the company would have to "wait and see" if Sea Containers, a 41 per cent shareholder, would bid again. Trading profits surged by 60 per cent to £1.06 million, although income from bank deposits fell to £30,000 (£181,000). Turnover climbed to £10.9 million (£10.1 million). Earnings per share rose to 5.5p (4.4p). The shares were unchanged at 115p, compared with last year's offer of 115p from Sea Containers.

Nestor profit drops 32%

NESTOR-BNA, the health-care and specialised personnel group, suffered a 32.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profit to £2.39 million (£3.54 million) in the 24 weeks to June 14. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, rose to £46.9 million (£46.6 million). A shake-up of UK nursing agencies brought an exceptional debit of £280,000. Earnings per share fell to 2.58p (4.4p). The interim dividend stays at 1.15p.

Addison back in the black

ADDISON Consultancy Group, the market research agency, is back in the black with a pre-tax profit of £40,000 (£239,000 loss) in the six months to end-June. Turnover slipped to £8.21 million (£9.89 million), due to reduced demand and to cancelled business services projects. Earnings per share stood at 0.06p, against a 0.36p loss per share previously. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Pöhl for Bertelsmann

KARL Otto Pöhl, who retired as president of the Bundesbank just over a month ago, has been appointed a member of the supervisory board of Bertelsmann, one of the world's largest publishing groups. Herr Pöhl, who started his career as a journalist, is to replace Detlev Rohwedder, the former chief of the east German Treubank privatisation agency, who was assassinated on Easter Monday.

Supervisory board jobs are non-executive and part-time, and more announcements about Herr Pöhl's future are expected.

American Trust rises

AMERICAN Trust's net asset value rose from 161.6p a share to 210.6p in the six months to end-July, with pre-tax profits increasing from £2.92 million to £3.05 million. Earnings were 2.51p a share, against 2.36p. The interim dividend is increased from 1.45p a share to 1.5p. Sounding a cautionary note, the investment trust said that the American budget deficit would hold back economic recovery.

Merivale buys flats

MERIVALE Moore, the property development and investment company, has acquired 130 luxury flats in St John's Wood, London, from Norwich Union. The price was almost £20 million. The flats, mainly tenanted, are expected to command prices of between £300,000 and £400,000 when modernised. Earlier this year Merivale reported taxable profits halved to £1.84 million.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	3010.96 (-6.71)
S&P Composite	389.85 (-2.30)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	22402.69 (-67.11)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	4006.45 (-18.82)
FT-SE Euro 100	1125.48 (-3.43)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	91.8 (+0.3)
Sydney: AO	1566.7 (-1.9)
Frankfurt: DAX	1647.91 (-7.73)
Brussels:	
General	5715.80 (+28.11)
Paris: CAC	488.54 (-2.00)
Zurich: S&K Gen	534.7 (-1.6)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1279.89 (-0.82)
FT-100	1419.76 (-0.84)
FT Gold Mines	160.2 (+3.7)
FT Fixed Interest	95.32 (-0.03)
FT Govt Secs	86.38 (-0.01)
Bargains	3016
SEAO Volume	507.7m
USM (Datastream)	127.79 (+0.20)

* denotes midday trading price

FTSE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	2,270	Cadbury	1,650	Lonrho	813	Royal Bank	1,075
Adia-Jones	1,827	CU	942	Loose	281	Safeway	1,850
Anglian	5,814	Courtauld	332	M&S	1,595	Scott & N	140
ASDA	4,988	Enterprise	152	Marshall	59	Scott Power	8,922
AS Foods	788	Barracord	122	BEPC	1,282	Sevens	7,500
Argyll	2,521	Fluoro	1,140	Midland	1,944	Smith & N	797
Asp Wagg	880	Fortis	6,171	Nat Power	7,502	South Tnt	7,481
B&A	894	Gen West	1,580	Net West	1,580	Smith & N	1,215
B&C	745	Gen West	1,580	N W Water	3,290	Smith & N	797
B&E	4,550	Glass	1,238	P&O	548	SK Beech	2,067
BAT	1,250	Grand Met	2,052	Pharmon	185	South Africa	1,478
B&S 'A'	1,394	Harrogate	550	Preston	1,212	Tarmac	685
B&S 'B'	1,279	GPSE	3,085	PowerGen	4,238	Tate Lyle	1,698
B&S 'C'	569	Guinness	1,512	Prudential	2,304	TBS	4,395
B&S 'D'	878	Harrogate	550	Reco	4,526	Tesco	5,133
B&S 'E'	944	Hawker	300	Rank	480	Thames W	2,923
B&S 'F'	322	Hilldown	1,225	R&C	817	Thorn EM	393
B&S 'G'	1,488	ICI	907	Reckitt	232	Triglav	2,590
B&S 'H'	1,719	Inchcape	559	Reed	759	Ultramar	703
B&S 'I'	851	Kingfisher	781	Rankliff	238	Unilever	1,898
B&S 'J'	1,882	Lawson	545	Reasers	482	United G	428
B&S 'K'	5,415	Ladbroke	3,002	RMC Co	292	Wellcome	1,380
B&S 'L'	2,288	Land Sec	1,495	RTZ	1,638	Whitard	305
B&S 'M'	3,050	L&O	2,050	R-Hoyce	3,554	Waters	2,748
B&S 'N'	1,151	Lloyds	813	Rothmans 'B'	294	Wills Cor	349



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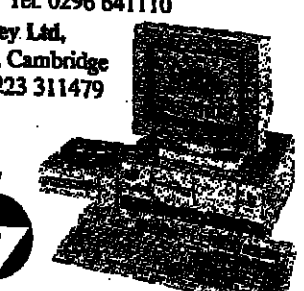
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Election fever grips the markets

COMMENT

The virtuous circle is starting to spin with a momentum that is hard to resist. Yesterday's cut in base rates was a direct result of the strength of sterling in the ERM, as the Treasury pointed out. Sterling's strength has been due in no small measure to the general bullishness in the City and that, in turn, has received a powerful boost from the turnaround in public opinion. As reported by MORI last Sunday, not only is the government forging ahead of Labour, but even more important, the public is regaining economic confidence at an impressive rate.

The favourable trends in public opinion are bound to receive a further boost from yesterday's mortgage rate cut. Financial markets and sterling should therefore strengthen further, opening the way for another interest rate cut in October. The markets have already pinpointed the day for the Major-Lamont economic strategy's crowning glory - Friday, October 11.

At 11.30 that morning, September's inflation figure will be published, showing a drop to

about 3.8 per cent as last year's petrol price rises drop out of the annual comparison, achieving the long-awaited cross-over with Germany's 4 per cent plus inflation. A few minutes later, the Bank of England will announce a further cut in interest rates, perhaps even below the symbolic 10 per cent. Half an hour after that, John Major will rise to address the last day of the Conservative party conference and make one of two portentous announcements.

Either he will call a general election for November 7, or he will announce that, almost a year to the day after ERM entry, sterling will be confined to the narrow band. According to some of the wilder enthusiasts, the prime minister could even make both announcements at once - after all, narrow band membership would be the perfect way of enlisting Britain's ERM partners into the battle to defend sterling in the event that pre-election

political sentiment suddenly turned sour. Of course, the scenario might not unfold in quite this way - the markets rarely guess the dates of major policy decisions with such precision. But, dates aside, the City seems convinced that an excellent autumn lies ahead for the government and the financial markets, even if prospects for the real economy remain less clear.

Could anything possibly go wrong?

Sterling's appeal for foreign investors could disappear quite suddenly and the virtuous circle could yet turn vicious. The Tories' lead in the polls could crack, not only because unemployment kept rising, but simply because public opinion was inherently volatile. Labour could throw a spanner in the government's works by backing away

from its promise never to devalue sterling. The suspiciously favourable export figures of the past few months could deteriorate, especially if the domestic economy began to recover. Or sentiment could simply shift back in favour of the market after the traumas in eastern Germany and the Soviet Union.

The circle of politics, finance and economics will spin ever faster between now and the general election. To assume that it will always be virtuous, however, might be rash.

Fallen star

Despite a depressing, indeed almost contrite half-time report from BAT, the company chose the conventional signal to shareholders that it

expects better times ahead. But the higher interim dividend contrasts with market views that BAT's Eagle Star subsidiary is likely to be a source of problems for some time. It was ironic that BAT announced awful figures from Eagle Star on the day that building societies trimmed their mortgage rates. That will help to limit future claims on Eagle Star mortgage indemnity policies, which have torn a hole in group profits yet again.

Lower mortgage repayments will ease the strain on hard-pressed householders and reduce the repossessions that lead to claims on Eagle Star. But the cut is too late to prevent more damage in the coming months, a point that Sir Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, made to shareholders with brutal clarity.

Eagle Star appears to have suffered more severely than its rivals in the mortgage indemnity business. The losses of £121 million on this one account top

anything recorded by other composites with similar market share. Figures later today from Sun Alliance will shed further light on this subject.

With clear hindsight, mortgage indemnity policies written in 1987 and 1988, when building societies and banks were lending at high multiples of income and when property values were heading for a tumble, were a large-scale accident waiting to happen. Premium rates were badly out of line with risk.

Maybe Eagle Star has taken a more severe view than its competitors of future liabilities in these lines and is reserving at a more conservative rate. Analysts expect underwriting losses from Sun Alliance of about £65 million on mortgage business. Given Sun's bias to the Southeast, however, there may be worse news in store.

BAT is determined to maintain its Eagle Star brand through further cost cuts and asset sales. But horrors like yesterday's will not help the candidacy of Eagle Star's Michael Butt, one of the contenders for Sir Patrick's job when he retires in 1993.

Food chief fears Russians face starvation this winter

Leaders of
Britain's food
industry meet
today amid fears
of new USSR
unrest over
food shortages

JOHN Gummer, agriculture minister, will sit down this morning with 30 business leaders, including Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, and Alistair Grant, chairman of Argill, to discuss a warning from Mr Grant of impending Soviet Union food shortages.

They are expected to agree a plan to bring immediate relief to the USSR and pave the way for longer-term projects, involving British industry, which will transform food packaging and distribution.

Mr Grant, the only British business leader to accompany Mr Gummer on his fact-finding mission to the Soviet Union in September 1990, said that recent events in Russia had brought new urgency to today's meeting.

In an interview yesterday, he said: "I think this has been spurred on by the realisation that following the attempted coup we need to perhaps put more effort into checking that fragile political structures in the USSR aren't put under additional pressure this winter because of real or imagined shortages in basic foodstuffs."

Mr Grant said an aid programme for the USSR was likely to span three phases. An aid phase, focused on grain, would move to a longer help phase, involving British food retailers and distributors advising on methods of storing and transporting food.

A big problem at the moment is that little food produced on state farms finds its way to the shops. Private farms take up only 3 per cent of the land but produce a



Man with a mission: Alistair Grant, who accompanied Mr Gummer to the USSR

quarter of the food. The Soviet Union, was like "a holding company which was losing its authority over its subsidiaries", he said.

The third phase would see Western countries investing in new projects that would begin to transform the way food is distributed. Cold storage, in which Britain has considerable expertise, would be at the forefront, Mr Grant said that few British companies have

valued, in due course profits can be reinvested, and the whole structure of investment is protected by recognition of basic rules of contract, ownership, all the framework for business we take for granted."

Mr Grant gave a warning that the need for Western assistance had become more urgent. "The problem facing Russia at the moment is that the people must see some measure of material prosper-

supplies this winter, to make an assessment of shortages, to look at the commodities like wheat, potatoes, edible oils, tea, bread in particular, and see if there is a need for the West to move in to support Soviet agriculture with grain to meet the requirements this winter."

Mr Grant said the days when Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury and Safeway will grace street corners in the Soviet Union were some way off. In the next five to ten years, he expects a simpler form of supermarket to evolve. "The Soviet consumer will not catch up with the Western consumer until they have the sanction of saying 'I will go elsewhere'."

Lucrative contracts aside, British firms are likely to be asked to send advisers to the Soviet Union and bring over Russian food retailers to teach them about packaging and distribution. No one is trying to Westernise the USSR overnight. But Mr Grant and his counterparts have an important role to play showing the way forward.

JON ASHWORTH

The USSR is like a holding company losing authority over its subsidiaries

been willing to commit themselves up to this point.

"It was evident that with the exception of ICI, which has a long running involvement in USSR agriculture and one or two other businesses, the blue chip, high quality, food manufacturing businesses around Britain, Europe, and North America had not yet begun to make a major commitment to being involved in Russia."

"What they have to feel is that political structures are stable, the rouble is properly

ity compared with what they have experienced in the last four years otherwise they will continue to say that though perestroika and glasnost are concepts that have impressed the West, they haven't really delivered anything.

"So what I think we'll be asked to do in the short term by John Gummer is consider some form of provision of knowledge and expertise. In the very short term it may be that we'll be asked to look at the threat to the basic food

the arrival of institutional salesman Stephen Mitchell, a smaller companies specialist from Phillips & Drew, has also joined the staff.

Spruced-up

THERE is, according to industry sources, a worldwide shortage of aeronautical grade spruce, from which many light aircraft are still made. British Aerospace management is doing nothing to alleviate the problem. One of the country's two suppliers of aircraft timber was intrigued to receive a BAe order recently, because four flawless, expensive wingspar lengths were included - to be sawn in half. The supplier reasoned that some historic aircraft replica must be under construction at BAe's Hatfield, Hertfordshire, plant and delivered the shipment himself. "Aircraft? Not at all," his BAe contact told him. "We need it for the skirting boards and door frames of our new executive and VIP toilet suite."

CAROL LEONARD

Tootal colours yet to show in new-look Coats



Profit growth ahead: Sir David Alliance, of Coats

THE jury is still out on Coats Viyella's £241 million acquisition of Tootal. Certainly no promises have yet been broken and the rapid integration of the international threads businesses of the two groups looks set to yield strong profits growth next year.

These are still early days, however, and the outcome of the planned disposal programme of unwanted Tootal subsidiaries must remain uncertain, given the current unfavourable state of markets. There is also a question mark hanging over the size of the eventual provisions and adjustments made in relation to the purchase.

Half-year pre-tax profits of £48.1 million (£54 million) included a single month's contribution from the new businesses, so the interim figures largely paint a pre-Tootal picture. All parts of the group have struggled in the first half, with the exception of garments and retail, where like-for-like sales grew 8 per cent.

A fairer view of the figures is given if exchange gains and property profits are stripped out. On that basis, operating profits fell about 20 per cent.

However, as the stock market has recognised since the spring, Coats, where Sir David Alliance is chairman, may be on the verge of a period of impressive profits growth. The balance sheet is expected to show less than 40 per cent gearing at the year end, while cost reductions mean that cash is being generated at the rate of £80 million a year.

Pre-tax profits are expected to reach about £110 million for the full year, giving about 10p of earnings. With the shares at 173p, the market is looking ahead to 1992, when, in theory, the benefits of a fully integrated Tootal will flow through just as the global economic recovery gathers pace. With much work still to be done, however, the shares must be regarded as fully valued at current levels.

T&N

AS A component maker, selling two thirds of its output to the international motor industry, T&N has not escaped the recessions in Britain and America, which were even worse in the first half of this year than at the back end of 1990. Earnings also suffered from some unusual elements of gearing.

Aside from higher interest charges ahead of the £120 million April rights issue, the perennial asbestos payments rose £1.4 million to £7.3 million. Redundancies cost £7.6 million against £3.5 million a year ago and £10.4 million for the second half of 1990. T&N hopes they will be the last.

That left pre-tax profits of £20.3 million against £46.1 million in the first half of 1990 and £24.4 million in the second. There are also tax problems, notably unrelieved ACT of perhaps £5 million on the promised maintained annual dividend, which took the half year rate to 45 per cent. That left earnings of 2.5p per share against 4p in the previous half and 11p a year ago.

The good news is that some

of these special factors may unwind in the second half and in America, where T&N invested near the bottom of the slump, the motor industry, at least, is showing signs of recovery. Little is expected from other markets, beyond the hope that trade has reached its nadir, but the cost base has been heavily cut through redundancy and investment and there is plenty of capacity for an upturn.

Full year profits should be around £58 million pre-tax, giving earnings above 8p per share on enlarged average share capital. Even if T&N

manages a bit more, it will be short of the 10.85p net dividend.

The shares rose 5p to 178p, where they yield a tempting 8.1 per cent but sell at more than 21 times likely earnings, which are heavily geared to recovery. They remain an interesting low-risk gamble.

George Wimpey

WHEN one of Britain's biggest housebuilders is reduced to reporting a mere £200,000 of profits, it is clear that the building industry is sick indeed. But we knew that.

What we did not really know until yesterday, however, was that George Wimpey had finally worked out what to do about it. Under the increasingly confident new team of Joe Dwyer, chief executive, and Roger Wood, finance director, Wimpey is clearly in for a big shake up.

Out will go activities that are driven by asset growth, such as commercial property, and in come high quality earnings, presumably generated by businesses hand-picked from Wimpey's existing but currently rather erratic earnings streams.

Mr Dwyer is confident, if unspecific, that the scale of the disposals he is planning will obviate the need for the rights issue that Wimpey's slowly improving balance sheet calls out for. In a stock market awash with rights, it is a refreshing corporate plan.

The new strategy is certainly beginning from a low point. As margins dwindled, pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June slid £12.6 million to only £200,000.

The post half-year sale of a 50 per cent stake in the Little Britain office development marks the way forward, with the deferred consideration of £110 million underpinning 1992's balance sheet. This year, however, will remain difficult, with interim gearing of 58 per cent expected to rise further.

Full year profits could be as low as £25 million putting the shares at 178p on an apparently ludicrous multiple of more than 35. But, by 1992, that multiple should look a lot less silly. Buy.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cumming back at P&D

ROBERT Cumming, who resigned as the retail analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew three years ago because he wanted the "intellectual challenge" of qualifying as a barrister, returned to the fold this week, his mission complete. Cumming, aged 30, is covering the brewery sector this time. "I found the exams fun but I missed the creativity and excitement of the City," says Cumming, who specialised in insolvency and shipping law. "As an analyst, a good idea is a new idea but there is no such thing as a new idea in law. You have to refer to historical facts." Cumming's new found faith in stock market research even extends to a conviction that analysts do "an important job". He says: "I know people will laugh, but it is important to sort out which are the good managers and make it easier for them to get money, to have some sort of watchdog. In contrast, in commercial law, there are two sides to an

argument and it will eventually be settled by some obscure historical fact. Companies would be better off tossing a coin and saving themselves all that money."

Foot of the cycle

OUR request for amusing and, hopefully, accurate bottom-of-the-cycle indicators, in return for a bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée, has produced several suggestions from thirsty readers. A Cambridge shire man points out that "excessions only end when 364 economists claim that there is no possibility of their doing so", while a reader from North Wales believes that the tadpoles in his garden pond waiting until September before turning into frogs, is an indication that their recess is over. A reader from Oxfordshire writes that the fact champagne is again on offer from the City Diary is a bottom-of-the-cycle indicator. On that mouth-watering note, a bottle of bubbly is now on its way to Brian Brough, a Lloyds bank manager in Hayes,

Four go West

NOT all City firms seem concerned with retrenchment. Durlacher West is expanding on all fronts. With a little help from Nicholas Cobbold, the head hunter, it has poached the mining team from Carr, Kiteat & Aitken, comprising Mike Coulson, Charles Kernot and Richard Ormer. Durlacher West's numbers have been further boosted by

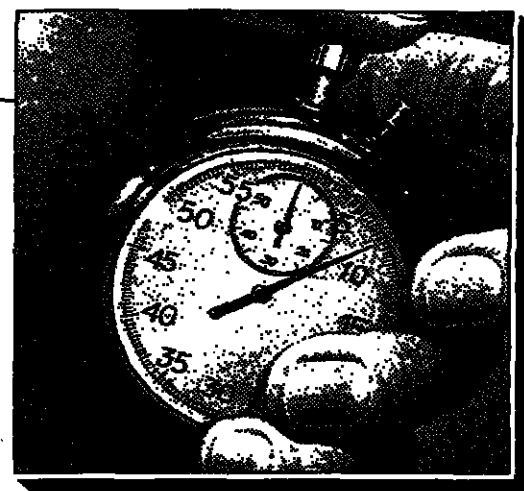
Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 11 per cent to 10.5 per cent p.a. with effect from the close of business on Wednesday 4 September 1991.



THE THOROUGHRED BANK.

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Construction supplier sees no early end to recessions

CRH group slides by 31.5%

By MARTIN BARROW

CRH, the international building materials group based in Ireland, has given a warning that it detects no early signs of recession bottoming out in Britain and America.

The company reported a 31.5 per cent decline in pre-tax profits from Ir£30.7 million to Ir£21.1 million (£19.2 million) in the first six months of 1991 and attributed more than half the fall to the depressed British market.

Harry Sheridan, finance director, said British operations made a small profit despite volumes falling by nearly 20 per cent. In response to difficult conditions a pre-stressed concrete plant at Warrington, Tyne & Wear, was mothballed and the British workforce cut by 500 to 3,700.

The American market was affected by Gulf uncertainty and recession. Aggregate and asphalt volumes were at similar levels to 1990 but pre-stressed concrete operations suffered from falling commercial construction. Ireland, still the main profit source, suffered a 9 per cent fall in volumes but avoided the recessionary conditions in Britain and America.

Earnings fell from 8.8p a share to 7.21p, but the interim dividend rises by 7.5 per cent from 2p a share to 2.15p. At pre-tax level, profits were also



Spreading downturn risk: Tony Barry, the CRH chief executive, who is expecting lower figures for the full year

affected by a new accounting standards board ruling that supplemental interest on convertible capital bonds should be charged to the profit and loss account with servicing costs, regardless of the likelihood of bond conversion.

The company has charged

servicing costs of Ir£3.84 million and provided Ir£3.09 million against supplementary interest. Last year's comparable figures have been adjusted by a total of Ir£3.22 million to take into account the directive. Mr Sheridan said that despite the charge,

the bonds still represented an attractive instrument for raising funds in capital markets. The company's borrowings fell from Ir£116.87 million to Ir£102.95 million and the net interest charge from Ir£9.64 million to Ir£4.92 million. Tony Barry, chief executive,

said that although CRH's balanced geographical and product spread should alleviate the worst effects of the downturn, it was clear that second half results would be lower than in 1990. Total profits last year were Ir£87.6 million before tax.

Interim payout is cut at Croda

By PHILIP PANGALOS

CRODA, International, the specialist chemicals group, has cut its interim dividend to 2.75p from 4.1p after a 40.7 per cent slump in first-half profits. The shares reacted with an initial dive of 32p, but recovered a little to close 29p lower at 160p.

Pre-tax profits slid to £10.2 million (£17.2 million) in the six months to end-June, on turnover down to £173.7 million (£191.2 million).

Michael Valentine, Croda's chairman, who gave warning at the annual meeting in May that first quarter profits were well down, blamed the fall on the "sharp decline in economic activity", which had affected business in Britain, America and Australasia.

Lower volumes and higher interest costs led to taxable profits from specialty chemicals declining to £7.4 million (£11.8 million), on turnover of £81.1 million (£83.5 million).

A "huge fall" in demand for industrial paints in Britain and Australasia resulted in the contribution from surface coatings plunging to £1.7 million (£3.5 million), on turnover of £43 million (£45.2 million). Group operating profits slid to £13.1 million (£18.7 million). Interest payments rose to £2.9 million (£1.5 million). Earnings per share fell to 5.1p (8.9p).

Drop in jobless hints at eastern German revival

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of unemployed in eastern Germany fell last month for the first time since unification last year, providing further evidence that the decrepit, former command economy may be responding at last to huge subsidies and investment from the west.

Pan-German current account figures published alongside the labour market data showed a sharply widening deficit in July. But record imports and slightly higher exports suggested that the economic slowdown in west Germany had not yet fed through into the trade data.

The federal labour office said the number of full-time unemployed in eastern Germany fell by 5,400 last month to 1,063,200, leaving the jobless rate at 12.1 per cent.

The number of workers on short time dropped by 159,000 to 1,451,000, for the second consecutive monthly decline. Short-time and fully unemployed workers together account for 28.5 per cent of the workforce.

The labour office attributed the improvement to the huge subsidies going into public works, training and early retirement schemes, but independent analysts have noted that the service sector, as well as the heavily subsidised construction sector, is showing signs of a pickup.

Despite the large numbers of east Germans who com-

mute to work in western Germany, unemployment in the west fell by 21,400 last month to 1,672,200, or 5.6 per cent.

As imports surged by 26 per cent to DM58.7 billion, the German trade surplus slumped to DM200 million from almost DM10 billion in June. Exports increased by 9.8 per cent in July to DM58.9 billion.

In part reflecting the normal summer worsening, the current account deficit widened to DM5.8 billion in July from DM3.7 billion in June. Burdened by large payments to the Soviet Union, the current account deficit for the first seven months this year totals almost DM26 billion.

Stefan Auwärter, economist at Morgan Grenfell Securities, found the improvement in the east German labour market encouraging, as yet another sign that a turnaround has begun.

Although eastern Germany accounts for only a tenth of German output, improvement there would help to offset the slowdown, or short recession, in western Germany. German growth next year is expected to be about 2 per cent, compared with under 1 per cent this year.

The strength of exports in July surprised Herr Auwärter, who inferred that there was no lack of competitiveness in the export industry.

"We are as determined as ever to reward our shareholders with dividend increases in excess of the rate of inflation."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

SIX MONTHS RESULTS £1 = \$1.81 for 1991 (\$1.79 for 1990)	Six months to June (unaudited)		Change
	1990	1991	
CONTINUING GROUP TURNOVER (including Farmers' exchanges)	£8,823m	£9,075m	+3%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£546m	£413m	-24%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	20.7p	22.4p	+8%

● Pre-tax profit of £413 million, decline more severe than anticipated, due mainly to adverse impact of UK recession on Eagle Star's underwriting results.

● Tobacco: trading profit up 5 per cent to £453 million and cigarette volumes 3 per cent ahead.

● Financial services: trading profit of £66 million – Farmers, Eagle Star Life and Allied Dunbar all recorded higher profits but Eagle Star suffered overall loss of £189 million.

● The Board remains confident of the Group's underlying business strength and has declared a second interim dividend of 11.6p – 22.4p for the year so far, an increase of 8 per cent.



BAT INDUSTRIES

The full interim report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

BASE RATE CHANGE

Union Bank of Switzerland, London
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with effect from the close of business

on 4th September 1991

its Base Rate was reduced from

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Incorporated in Switzerland with limited liability.



Girobank plc Base Rate

Girobank announces that with
effect from close of business
yesterday (4 September 1991)
its Base Rate was reduced from
11% to 10.5% per annum.

Reg Office: 10 Milk Street London EC2V 8JH
Reg No: 1950000

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THE TIMES BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

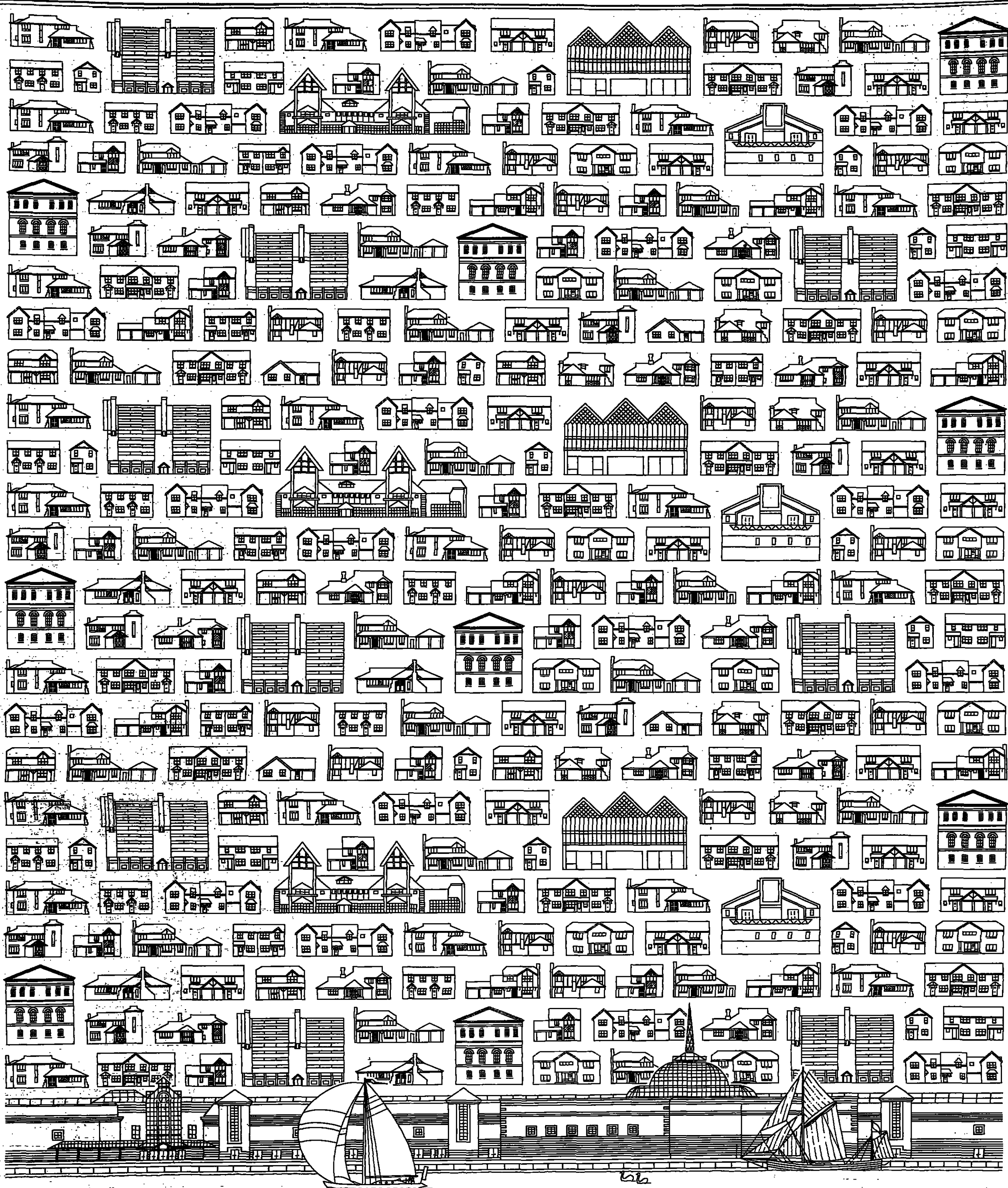
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state-of-the-science St Mary's Hospital on the Isle of Wight.

Beazer Kier operates on a national level, specialising in large construction and civil engineering projects such as power stations at Peterborough and Corby, and the £170 million Lakeside shopping centre at Thurrock. (Overseas projects too, like the Bangkok Expressway and the huge Katse dam in Lesotho.)

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Amec interim hit by problem contracts

By MATTHEW BOND

PAYMENT problems on some mechanical and electrical engineering contracts have contributed to a 23 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits at Amec, the construction and engineering group.

In the six months to end-June pre-tax profits fell to £21.9 million, with profits at the company's mechanical and electrical engineering division sliding 40 per cent to £13 million.

John Early, Amec's finance director, said the sharp fall in profits at the division was a result of the conservative way in which profits are taken on contracts.

"Rather unusually we have four or five contracts, which are quite large and where we have incurred substantial costs, where their value has not yet been agreed," he said.

Amec books profits only when a contract's value has been agreed. The problem contracts have not been identified, but are understood to have a total value of about £80 million.

Alan Cockshaw, chairman,



Cockshaw: 'difficult year'

said all the company's activities were being hit by recession but he believed the bottom of the market had been reached. However, he did not expect any significant improvement until 1993.

Next year, he said, "would be another difficult year". Amec, however, is increasing its interim dividend to 4p (3.875p).

The housing and commercial property division contributed a £1.3 million loss to the interim figures. Amec would not be drawn on the specific level of provisions taken

against its 5,000-unit land bank, but confirmed that group-wide provisions had increased by a figure that analysts estimated at £16 million. During the half year Fairclough built 580 homes and is expected to finish 1,400 by the year end.

The generally depressing picture was backed by higher civil engineering profits, with the building and civil engineering division contributing £11.6 million of profits, almost 15 per cent up on the first half of 1990. Amec's civil contracts include work on the Drax power station and the Limehouse Link road tunnel in London's Docklands.

Mr Cockshaw was also pleased with Amec's performance in oil and gas, on- and off-shore. During the first half, Offshore won a £70 million contract from Shell UK for maintenance and modification work in the southern North Sea.

The £110 million raised through the March rights issue has been used to repay some £50 million of debt, leaving the company with about £60 million in cash.

Greencore chief executive resigns

THE chief executive of the former Irish Sugar Company has resigned after a ten-hour board meeting into an alleged breach of London Stock Exchange rules.

Chris Comerford quit his £125,000 post at the former state-owned firm, which was privatised recently, and is now called Greencore "in the best interests of the company", after reports that he had failed to disclose a claimed interest in a company taken over by Irish Sugar before its privatisation.

The affair, being considered today by the exchange council, is regarded as having serious implications for confidence in the Irish government's policy of privatising state-run companies in an attempt to cut the exchequer deficit.

Opposition politicians called for a ministerial statement about Mr Comerford's resignation.

Under the terms of the privatisation earlier this year, the Dublin government became the biggest shareholder in Greencore.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS											
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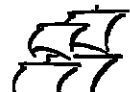
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Political game-player or students' friend?

Students belong to their institution's union when they enrol, but they may get more for their free membership than they want. David Tytler reports

The 210,000 new students entering universities and polytechnics this autumn will be faced with many demands on their time and money. The one demand they will not be able to resist is membership of the students' union.

Membership is free and automatic for everybody attending British universities, polytechnics and colleges; students pay only for the facilities they use. The individual unions pay affiliation fees, ranging from the minimum £50 to up to £50,000 for the largest unions in the biggest universities and polytechnics.

Whether or not they affiliate to the National Union of Students is up to each individual union, but the NUS claims 1.5 million members from affiliated student unions in nearly every university, polytechnic, and college throughout the United Kingdom.

The new student scooped into the union will find conflicting advice on whether it is

the caring organisation it claims to be or a political organisation determined to bring down the government, further the claims of the Labour party, that is unrepresentative of the "ordinary" student.

Calls for various enquiries into the union have produced no hard-nosed legislation. The biggest setback for the anti-NUS campaigners came when the government failed to accept demands that student unions should lose their closed-shop status so that union membership would be voluntary. Campaigners were hoping that new regulations covering the union could be incorporated into last year's student loans legislation, but the government was advised this would be unconstitutional.

The NUS insists it is not a party political organisation but that it does enter the political arena to campaign for what it sees as the rights and needs of students. The union prefers to concentrate on the

services that it and its affiliate unions offer and there are advantages in membership, including discounts in shops, cinemas and clubs, cheap facilities in students' unions and a free advice service on finance, welfare, housing and legal matters.

The NUS campaigns now being run from Nelson Mandela House, the union's north London headquarters, are, however, overtly political. The list includes demands for "decent affordable housing for students and young people; the replacement of the poll tax with a system which doesn't penalise students and people on low incomes; quality education and training with greater access and freedom of choice; and an end to student loans and proper funding for students to continue their education."

Stephen Twigg, the NUS president, says: "An imminent general election gives an excellent opportunity to place our demands at the top of the political agenda. As part of



Proper union business? Protests such as this have led to criticism that student unions become too involved in politics

this, we shall ensure that parties and candidates address our demands for the repeal of student loans and fair grants for all, the reinstatement of students' right to income sup-

port and housing benefit, a significant increase in public spending across all sectors of education and for democratic control of education at every level. The 1990-91 academic

year will be remembered as one of enforced student hardship and debt. The freezing of grants, the introduction of loans and the abolition of housing benefit and income

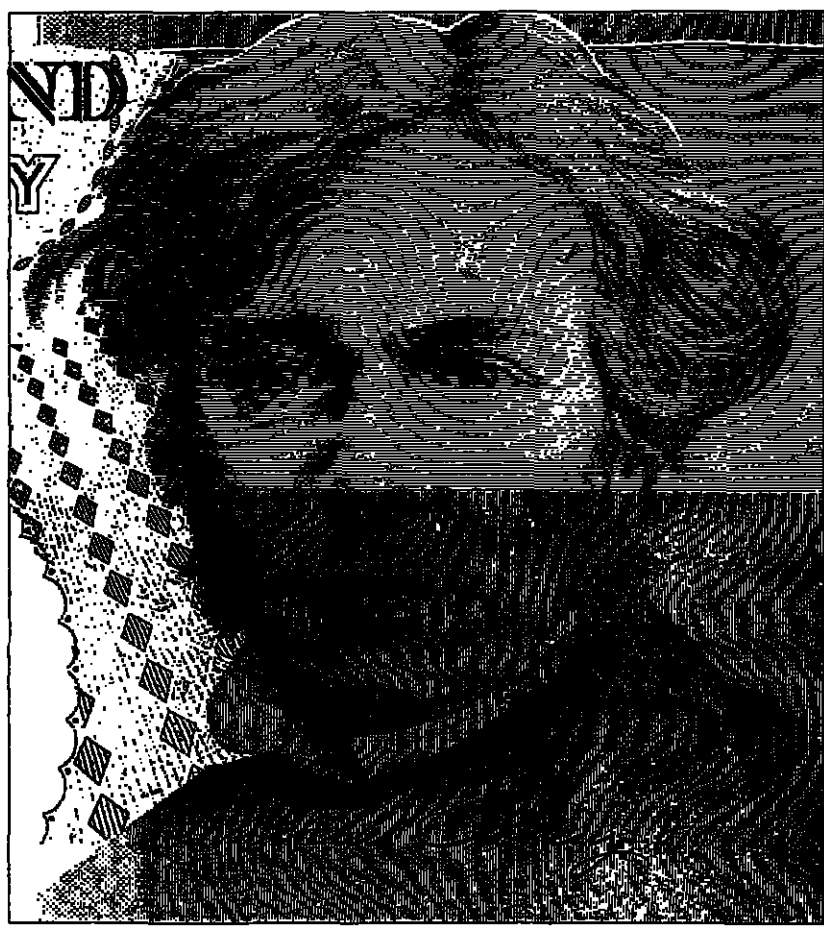
support for students has deprived them of the means to study, and the welfare net which they need now more than ever before.

"Student unions and the

services they provide have never been more important. The union mounts its campaigns by lobbying, meeting government officials, working with other organisations as well as supporting demonstrations. It is represented at the big party political conferences and at the Trades Union Congress.

Stated aims of the NUS are to represent students and promote their views locally, nationally and internationally. "The NUS campaigns on many issues concerning education and student welfare," the union claims in its recruitment literature. "Our united strength forced the government to grant students an 80 per cent concession on the poll tax."

The education department two years ago carried out a review of the union, concentrating on freedom of speech on the campus, membership and financing, and the use of public funds. The government took no action, but Alan Howarth, the junior minister responsible for higher education, asked universities, polytechnics, colleges and the NUS to tell him what if anything needs to be done. Further talks are likely.



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The next test is the race for good lodgings

Accommodation can be difficult to find, but there are lessons to be learnt

ACCOMMODATION office telephones start ringing the week after A-level results are published. Charles Dudley, the commercial manager of Sussex university, says: "The euphoria at getting a place is replaced by the worry of 'Where am I going to live?'"

"Sussex, like most universities, guarantees accommodation to students who accepted our offer of a place by June. They are anxious simply to know where rather than whether, but late applicants all over the country will be in a different position."

Quality of accommodation is an important influence on whether or not students drop out. Many institutions can no longer keep pace with demand for housing.

So, what type of accommodation might a student be offered?

The traditional halls of residence offer single and sometimes shared rooms, include fuel bills in the charge and provide meals - usually breakfast and evening meals with full board at weekends. They are a popular choice for first-years, making the move from home easier, providing a chance to make friends, and leaving students knowing exactly how much money is left after living expenses. Some students are irked by the restrictions of regular mealtimes and limited choice of menu and prefer the alternative offered at many institutions of self-catering halls or student flats owned by the institution.

These may provide some linen and crockery, and may include fuel in the rent. Students still have to budget for food.

The other possibilities are in the private sector, and here the student is at the mercy of local prices. Since last year, students have not been allowed to claim housing benefit and must therefore budget for rent payable from the ordinary grant. Institutions used to maintain lists of "approved lodgings" inspected by accommodation office staff, but staff shortages are now limiting this service.

The choices are between renting a flat or house with other students or opting for "digs" - a room in a private house, usually with some meals provided but often nowadays with use of the kitchen. This can ease the transition from home, but imposes restrictions because the student has to comply with somebody else's house rules.

A choice popular before the recession was for parents who could afford it to buy terraced properties and let them to student children and friends. Even in a high-cost area such as Bournemouth, it can still be done for less than £55,000. Accommodation costs vary - and are not always higher in the South-east. A small survey last week found traditional

hall charges varying by about £15 a week. Students at Bristol university will pay £38 to £65 for a room and 14 meals a week, at Manchester £51 to £56, and at Portsmouth polytechnic £47.95. Leeds university students will get 21 meals for £52.90, Nottingham's for £53.13 and Thames polytechnic's for £57. Edinburgh university's freshers get a bargain: 16 meals included in the £49.70 rent.

Self-catering costs also vary. Birmingham university can provide places for £18, Bristol £23 to £35, Edinburgh £27.50, Portsmouth polytechnic £30, London university £45, Sussex £32 and Nottingham £25. Manchester university charges £25 or £40. Digs vary according to what landlords think they can charge; from £32 to £55 if meals are provided. Bed and breakfast can be found in Birmingham for £38, in Manchester £32 and Edinburgh £34.50. Bournemouth guest houses charge £42 to £56 but provide evening meals. As for private rents, the National Union of Students estimates the cost of a room in a shared house in London to be between £50 and £60 weekly in a typical student area. Other cities have their "student areas", where costs are surprisingly consistent: £27 to £38. Whatever the accommodation, rents must be compared to see exactly what is included. Prices may appear low, but may also be exclusive of all bills.

Students renting private accommodation may be expected to pay rent for an entire calendar year. Even some universities now make tenancy agreements for 39 weeks, which would not appeal to students planning to go home for the Christmas and Easter vacations.

When signing a rental agreement, ask somebody knowledgeable to check it, perhaps at the Citizen's Advice Bureau or college accommodation office. Tony Flynn, of Birmingham university's accommodation service, says: "A contract could be for nine or 12 months with no notice clause. That could be worth £5,000 between four students and they could be stuck with each other's company even if they fail to get on."

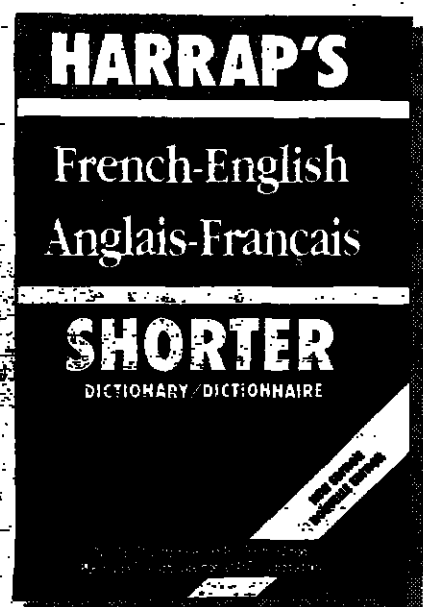
Mr. Flynn advises students without as-yet-guaranteed accommodation: "Forget your holiday job. Spend a few days looking now." At Birmingham, where Mr. Flynn says accommodation is in good supply, an unusual service is being offered. New students can talk to knowledgeable second-year students at the accommodation office, paid by the university, who will put them in touch with potential sharers, explain facilities in different parts of the city and, where possible, visit premises with them.

BERYL DIXON

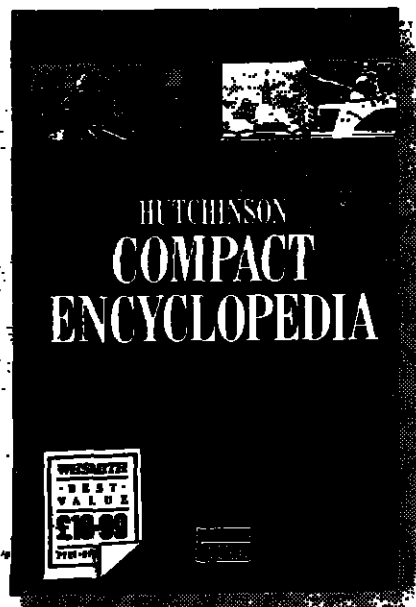


Tony Flynn: start your search now

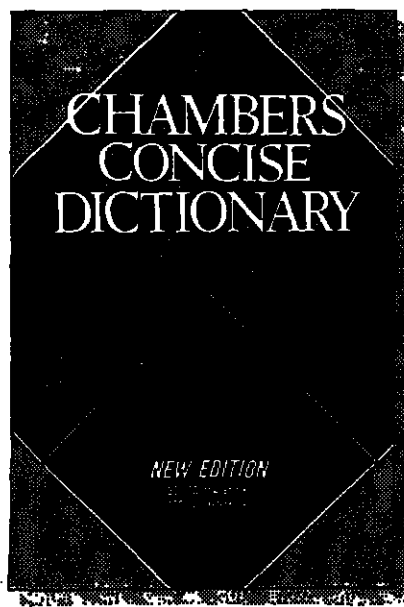
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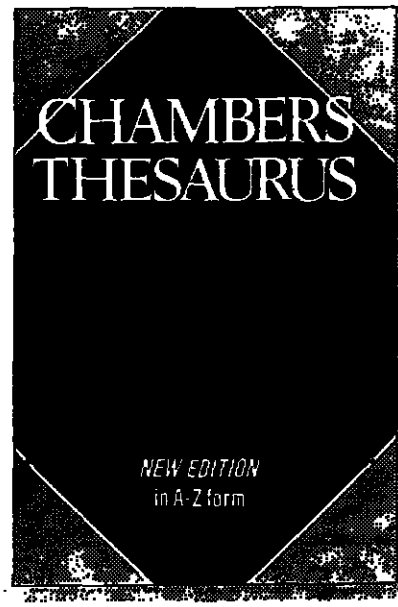
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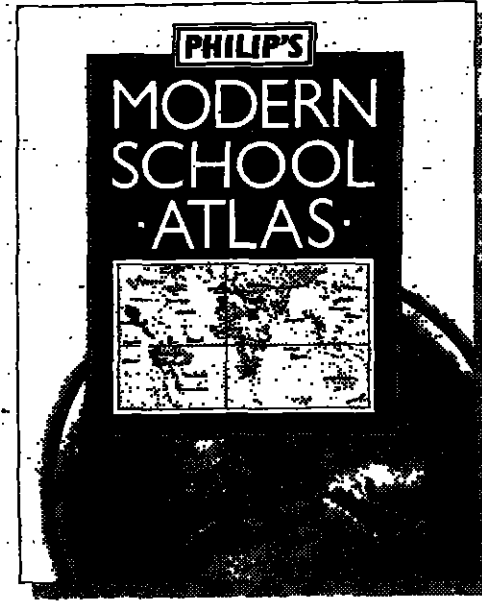
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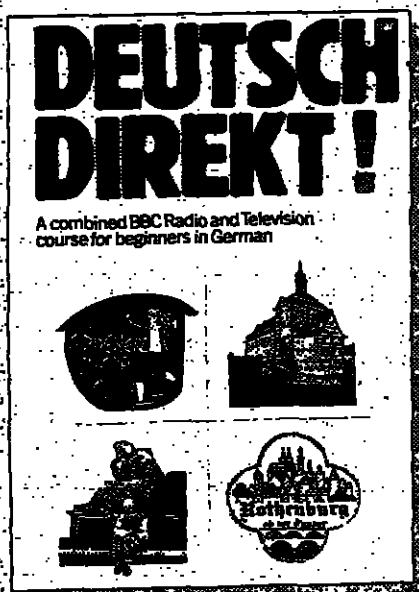
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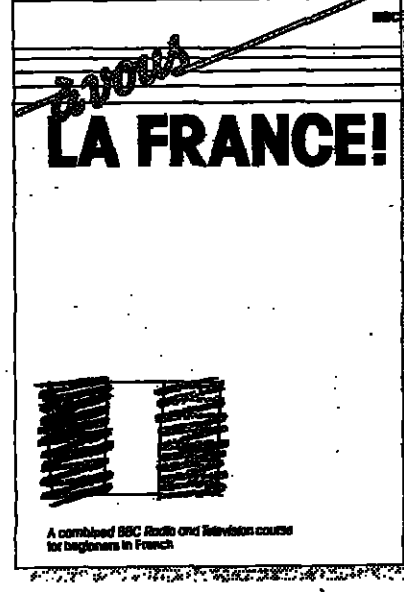
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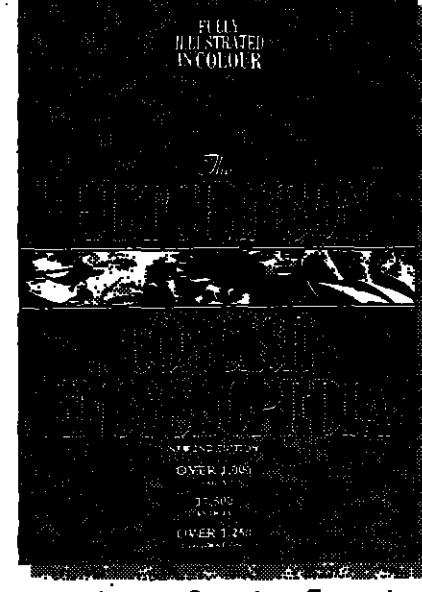
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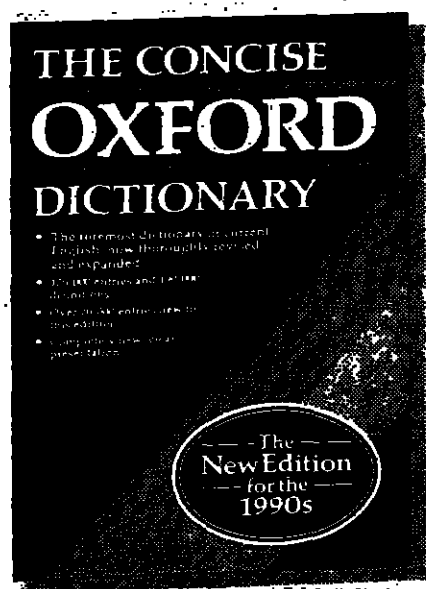
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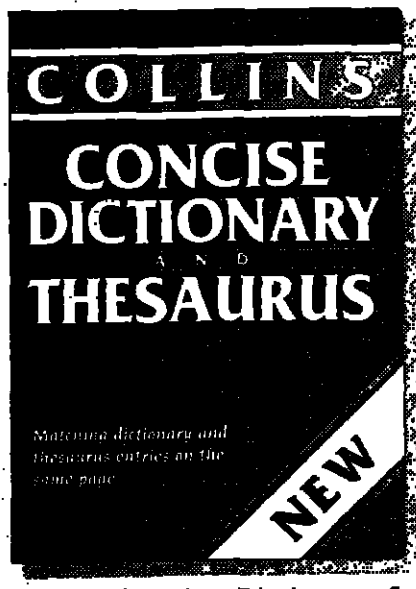
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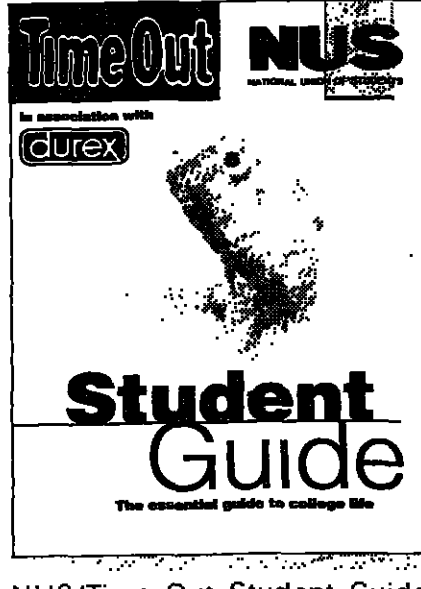
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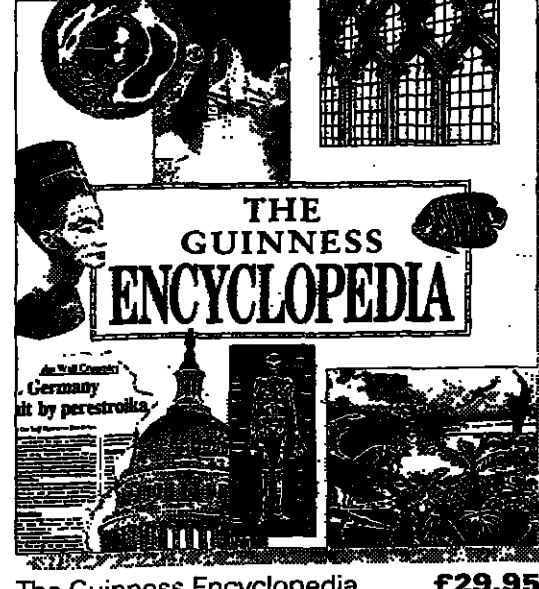
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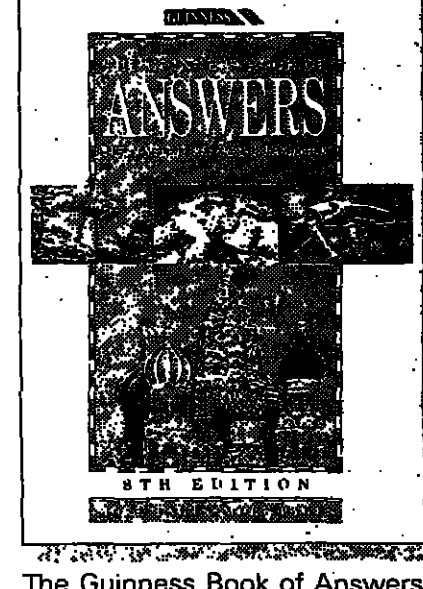
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British Isles ready to make a successful defence of the Walker Cup

A confident Mickelson leads US into action

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

PHIL Mickelson, of the United States, has the honour of hitting the first shot in the 33rd Walker Cup which begins at Portmarnock today. Mickelson will relish the occasion for no matter what he achieves in the future, he is unlikely to enjoy again a moment of such intensity.

This is a watershed in the history of the Walker Cup. It is being held in Ireland for the first time. All tickets have been sold and 13,000 spectators are expected to attend each day. And Great Britain and Ireland will be seeking to make a successful defence for the first time.

Mickelson was a member of the 1989 United States team that became the first to lose on its own soil. He will not get another chance to be on a winning side. He will return to Arizona State University next week to start his final year of studies, but by this time next year he will be a professional.

He has, of course, already proved himself at that level, by winning the Tucson Open in January he became only the second amateur to win on the US PGA Tour since 1954.

Mickelson has no intention of being compared with the small percentage of left-handed golfers who play the game. His desire is to live up to the challenge of the game, to be on a par in time with the likes of Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus. David Eger, one of

Mickelson's team colleagues, says that the wonderful thing about him is his outlook. "He is not flippant, not aloof but he has the same kind of cockiness Lanny Wadkins had in the early 1970s when he was in college. It's not bragging if you can back it up."

Mickelson will initially attempt to do that when he partners Bob May, another Californian, against Jim Milligan and Gary Hay in the opening foursomes this morning.

In the afternoon he will lead off once more against Andrew Coltart, James R. Gabrielsen, the United States captain, said: "Phil is the outstanding amateur golfer in the United States today. He is playing No. 1 because there he can be an inspiration to all of us."

Coltart, however, believes reputations are there to be torn down. He said: "Mickelson is there to be toppled. He is obviously a very, very good player but we would not be here if we were not good players ourselves."

Coltart is one of six players in the local team whose belief in themselves is so positive that they will turn professional when the match is over. Gary Evans, Paul McGinley, Jim Payne, Liam White and Ricky Williams intend to join Coltart at the European Tour qualifying school later in the year.

That, however, will seem a million miles away this morning. The match is so special that they will be consumed by only the one thought of retaining the Walker Cup.



Pastures new: Jim Payne to turn professional after his Walker Cup duty in Ireland

PROFILES OF THE PLAYERS AT PORTMARNOCK

Great Britain and Ireland

ANDREW COLTART: Age 21, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire. 1981 Scottish strokeplay champion. Represented Britain last year at the European Tour qualifying school. American college student.

GARY EVANS: Age 22, Worthing. Twice achieved double of English strokeplay title (senior and Lytham Trophy). Runner-up in amateur championship last year and member of world championship team.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Age 20, Ballycan, Dublin. Unbeaten member of Ireland's winning team international last year and European championship last year.

LIAM WHITE: Age 22, Walsby, Lincolnshire. 1990 Irish Amateur runner-up.

RICKY WILLIAMS: Age 32, Perth, Perthshire. English champion. Leading amateur in the English Open last year. 1990 world team champion. Won St Andrews Links Trophy in June.

GARRY HAY: Age 32, Monk, Angus. Turned professional last year. 1990 British youth champion, but was unimpressed and returned to amateur ranks. Won 1990 Scottish strokeplay title.

SARAH MCGRIMPEY: Age 36, Bangor, Co. Down. Captained in 1985 and 1986. Played with 1971 victory at St Andrews. Last year, but failed and won foursomes. 1985 British champion, 1988 Irish champion.

United States

ALLEN: Age 42, LaGrange, Georgia. Had to withdraw from 1989 match with back injury. Member of team runner-up in 1988. Won 1989 US Open.

DAVID DUVALL: Age 40, Fort Veda, Florida. Second US Open runner-up in 1988. Won 1989 US Open.

BOB MAY: Age 22, La Habra, California. US Open runner-up in 1988. Won 1989 US Open.

DAVID EGER: Age 38, Ponte Vedra, Florida. An executive director of USGA. Won 1989 US Open.

MIKE SPUGA: Age 22, Tamarac, Florida. University of North Carolina student. Won 1989 US Open.

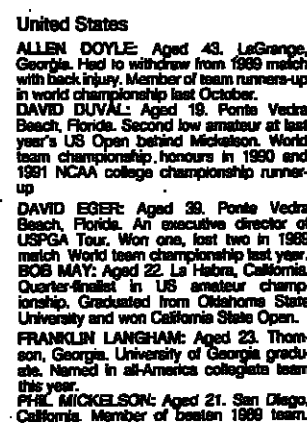
JAY SIGEL: Age 47, Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Eighth match is American record. 14 wins in record for either side. Captain in 1982. 1979 British Amateur champion, 1982 US Open.

MICHAEL VOYLES: Age 42, San Valley, California. Succeeded Mickelson as amateur champion two weeks ago. Re-instated as amateur last year.

JOHN GABRIELSON: Age 32, San Diego, California. Member of Boston 1989 team.



McGinley: experienced



Mickelson: fine record

SPORTS LETTERS

Confusion arises from football law changes

From Mr A. J. E. Kingsthorpe

Sir, As the secretary of a senior non-league football club playing in the Wintonale Kent League, I shudder for the fate of the game when I read the reported comments of one of our more respected referees (August 30) in support of the latest modifications to the laws, aimed - we hear - at eradicating the ill-described "professional foul".

In my view, and in the view of everybody I have spoken to on the subject since the changes were announced, it is all too facile for referees to take shelter behind statements such as: "We have no alternative but to send off players - it is a mandatory instruction from FIFA...". Every law in the book is prefaced either explicitly or implicitly with the rider "it is in the opinion of the referee..." and, as referees have said to me on many occasions, "there are no unintentional fouls".

We are now seeing week after week, either on television or in lower-grade matches, referees reacting like automata to what they believe the FIFA/FA

strictures to mean and sending off players for totally accidental incidences of what they now see as infractions of the laws rather than as the everyday occurrences, some more accidental/legitimate than others, which are part and parcel of a physical contact sport.

Since the laws were first interfered with for the World Cup, I do not believe I have seen a player dismissed for a truly intentional foul or hand-ball. Certainly those I have seen on television have at best been questionable as to whether there really was any intent.

At our level things are even more confused. In our first league match we had a defender dismissed after a tussle with a forward - who freely admitted both at the time and subsequently that he was at least 50 per cent to blame - by a referee whose first words to the defender were: "I'll give you the benefit of the doubt this time" but then, presumably coming under the influence of the opponents' supporters, decided that he "had no alternative" but to send the defender off.

Need for restraint

From Mr Martin Briggs

Sir, Thousands of cricket followers must have rejoiced at the emergence of Philip Tufnell as a Test match spin bowler. It has been a pleasure to watch him bowl thoughtfully and successfully and one hopes that he will be in the England side for a long time to come.

Less of a pleasure, however, have been his wild antics when he takes a wicket. Surely, in spin bowling, a subtle and guileful art, there is no place for the snarling and clenched fists that characterise League footballers and West Indian quickies? And umpires might grow a bit weary of the raised arm and pointed finger whenever he appeals.

If Graham Gooch, as Tufnell's captain, and Mickey Stewart, as manager, still pay more than lip-service to standards of moderate and sporting behaviour in Test matches, it is too much to hope that they might take this talented young player on one side and explain what they expect of him?

Would Lance Gibbs, Sonny Ramadhin, Jim Laker, Derek Underwood, Richie Benaud, Ray Illingworth and others have been guilty of such displays of exhibitionism? They didn't need it; nor does Tufnell. Let talent speak for itself.

When claiming a victim, these great bowlers permitted themselves a quiet smile of satisfaction at a job well done and waited patiently for the next. If anyone had suggested that a bit of snarling and arm-waving would "psych them up", they would no doubt have had a suitable reply.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BRIGGS,
Ballards,
Chapelfield, Northiam,
Rye, East Sussex.

Disappointing day

From Mr Najam Butt

Sir, Last Sunday I went to Uxbridge Cricket Club to spend a nice day watching cricket with family and friends. Play, between the Javed Miandad XI and the Javed Miandad XI, was scheduled to start at 11am. Azharuddin, along with a few other players, did not arrive at the ground until 11.15 and play did not start until 12.15.

Consequently, the organisers of the Sports Development Institute (SDI), reduced the 55-over match to 45 overs.

The two sides, billed as the "Current Full International

numbered matches, his opponent taking whichever the winner discards. This would mean that in a series containing an odd number of matches the winner would presumably take the odd-numbered matches, whereas in an even numbered series his choice would need more careful thought.

Such a system would improve fairness and remove some of the luck from Test match cricket; it might also make the selectors' task easier.

Yours faithfully,
K. J. WATERFIELD,
Headmaster,
Edge Grove,
Aldersham,
Hertfordshire.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY HILL,
Fairhill,
Warners Hill,
Cockham Dean,
Berkshire.

According to form book

From Mr Simon Weir

Sir, Do the results from the world championships in Tokyo mean that athletics is the purest form of sport?

The athletes listed as the top performers of the year in your pre-championship guide (August 23) won half of the 24 men's events and came second in another seven. In the women's events the top form athletes won nine and were second twice.

In track and field the best man usually does win. In no other sport at world championship level would the player in best current form have an even chance of winning. Usually the lowest genuine odds at Wimbledon or the Open are about 5-1.

If horses showed the same form, racing and bookmaking would close in a week.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON WEIR,
35 Master Close,
Oxted, Surrey.

Squads were little of the sort

From Mr P. T. Landsberg

Sir, Carl Lewis's remarkable 100 metres in 9.86sec in Tokyo (report, August 26) raises the question of what would record one may expect by the year 2000. If one constructs a smooth curve of world record times for 100 metres against the year of the achievement, one can hazard a guess that the time of 9.82sec is unlikely to be reached until perhaps 2006, and 9.80sec may have to wait until 2010.

This compares with an extrapolation made in 1980 at the British Association meeting in Salford. He expected a world record of 9.82sec in the year 2000. I suspect that an ultimate limit cannot be predicted realistically, though it must exist.

Yours etc.,
PETER T. LANDSBERG,
118 Highfield Lane,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Equality on rink

From Mr Derek Severs

Sir, The Gloucestershire Bowling Association President's team played its annual fixture against the Gloucestershire County Women's Bowling Association on August 29 and the men won 149-121, thus avenging last year's defeat.

After such a close match over all six rinks, I found it ironic that the following morning there appeared an article by Simon Barnes commenting on how few sports there are in which men and women compete on equal terms; he picked out equestrianism but overlooked bowls.

Yet here is a sporting activity played by many thousands of men and women where the physical strength of the male is no great advantage and the women are very much the equal in skill, tactical appreciation and accuracy.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SEVERS,
Holly Cottage, Kilcot Lane,
Hillside, Wotton Under Edge,
Gloucestershire.

Ryder Cup revision required

From Mr David Gullick

Sir, Before Europe's team is selected for the Ryder Cup in 1993, the PGA should look at the method of selection. The present one would appear to share with our own parliamentary electoral system only the virtue of simplicity.

The potential and actual anomalies which make for injustice are several; but the greatest was highlighted this year by your report (August 26) that David Gifford took the ninth place ahead of Eamonn Darcy by £38.26 - or 0.032 per cent.

The most striking inequity in the system of aggregating prize-money won and calling the pounds (and pence) points, is that it wholly ignores the numerous jokers in the pack. I refer to the welcome presence in the qualifying tournaments of non-European golfers, vividly exemplified by the fact that the last qualifying tournament was won by Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe.

Such a (not uncommon) happenstance means that, from the point of view of European players seeking Ryder Cup places, the kitty of available pounds/points in that tournament was significantly diminished. To a lesser extent, the same thing happens every time a non-European figures in the higher placings, and shares in the available money with Europeans.

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I also find it strange that two golfers, who have, all summer, been at the top of the world rankings, should have to depend on the captain's wild-card choice for their place in the team. They ought to be first in line for confirmation.

Yours faithfully,
L. ROBERTSON,
118 Don Street,
Woodside,
Aberdeen.

No fear or favour

From the Hon. Robert Preston

Sir, There seems to be a consensus on the setting up of a democratic body to administer horse racing. The whipping horse is, as usual, the Jockey Club. The function of the Jockey Club is the enforcement of the Rules of Racing. In the best of the Rules is comparably the best, as compared with, for instance, France, where money rules the roost, or with America, where some states forbid the use of non-normal nutrients on racehorses, whereas others do not.

The Jockey Club insists that all such nutrients are illegal.

A kind of collective body or coalition would be at the mercy of every pressure group. The political anomaly is a hung parliament, and the result would be equally disastrous. This may have been so in olden days, but it bears no resemblance to today's racket. The rules which administrators the Rules of Racing without fear or favour, even if doubt exists as to why non-normal nutrients showed up in tests. Otherwise those with the longest purses would succeed by employing the best advocates,

Change of control

From Dr W. S. Parker

Sir, With repeated complaints of under-use of school sports grounds and other facilities would it not be possible to remove the control and ownership of these from education authorities and state schools and place them under independent local sports authorities?

Schools would have full priority in renting facilities at other times they could be let to other organisations on a non-profit basis, subsidised wherever necessary.

W. S. PARKER,
68 Launceston Road,
Paignton, Brighton, East Sussex.

while the small man would be discriminated against.

The fact that most Jockey Club members are of comfortable means has been cited as another fact. It is no such thing - there is less risk that they will succumb to bribery.

I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant.

ROBERT PRESTON,
Thatched Cottage, Dingley,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

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68 Launceston Road,
Paignton, Brighton, East Sussex.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SEVERS,
Holly Cottage, Kilcot Lane,
Hillside, Wotton Under Edge,
Gloucestershire.

Carr lends renowned gusto to high office

Patricia Davies on a Portmarnock golfer whose name is synonymous with the Walker Cup

THERE is a man at Portmarnock for the Walker Cup this week who plays off eight. He will be 70 years old next February and he does not practise much any more. Take him on at your peril, however.

He once prepared for an amateur championship at St Andrews by hitting 40,000 drives in practice. He won that title and has 40 assorted championships to his name.

He will charm you, make the odds and, having taken your measure, do his damnedest to grind you into the dust. If he does not succeed, he will take you on again, at the poker table, or the bridge table, or the snooker table, or even the kitchen table.

The gambling is inveterate, the golf game is legendary, the man is Joseph B. (Joe) Carr, recent captain of the Royal and Ancient, known throughout Ireland as "JB".

"God's gift to golf," Laddie Lucas, who first played with Carr on the 1947 Walker Cup team at St Andrews, said of him. He was the first of ten Walker Cup appearances (plus one as non-playing captain) for the man from Dublin, born in Portmarnock but playing out of the Sutton club.

Lucas said: "He had a marvellous spirit. He was always up on his toes and had a lively gait. He was a genius with a golf ball, a law unto himself, with great confidence in himself and his own method. He was a beautiful manoeuvrer of a golf ball, a very good, strong player, with determination and quite exceptional character."

John Jacobs, who helped Carr work hard on his game, said: "Joe was hugely strong. He could knock a five-iron

and Nicklaus had a bet of a dollar a shot on their individual scores, which was doubled up after the first two rounds. Nicklaus shot 66, 67, 68, 68 but he was a lousy poker player and Carr got all his money back. "He comes up like a cork," Lucas said.

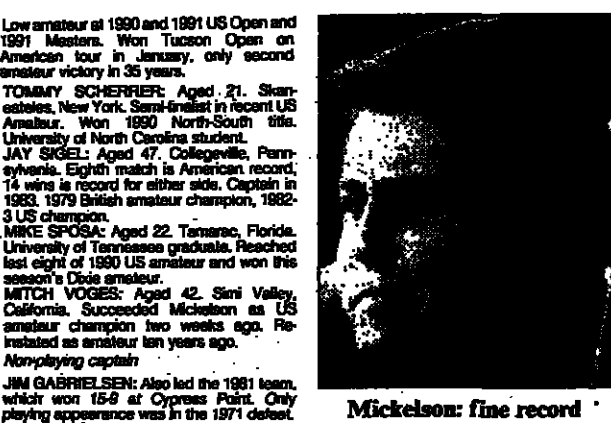
He was not good by accident and he won his second amateur, at St Andrews, in 1958, the championship for which he hit all those drives, when others thought he might be on the decline. In 1960, he won his third, and last, amateur but he reached the final again in 1968, at Troon, going down to Michael Bonallack.

On the 1st tee, Bonallack, who had the honour of saying he was playing a Dunlop six, Carr, who always played with that ball, said: "You can't do that." Bonallack remained unmoved, so Carr stormed: "Well, I hope you lose the damn thing."

As captain of the R and A (and Bonallack's boss), Carr will have to make a lot of speeches to non-Irish persons. He sought advice and friends at RTE put him in a studio for five minutes. "They played it back when I came out," he said, "and, do you know, I didn't understand a single word I'd said."

Typically, he told the story against himself and, typically, he took steps to put it right, studying a video of himself speaking and each morning practising, practising, practising, modulation in all things.

The driver is probably being put through its paces as well, for when Joseph B. Carr drives into office on Thursday, September 19, he will want to give it a lash to remember.



Mickelson: fine record

RACING

Berry appeals for fair handicapping

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

JACK Berry yesterday launched a scathing attack on Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior Jockey Club handicapper, over the allocation of weight to his horses.

The Cockerham handler called for an independent appeals system to which trainers could refer cases when they considered their horses were too high in the handicap.

"It is time we had an ombudsman. No one man is God, but Geoffrey Gibbs plays it," he said at York. "If you have a complaint you should be able to go to a three-man committee, get round the table and thrash it out."

"Gibbs would say I don't know anything about two-year-olds but I have plenty of them. I have been working twice a week so I must know a little bit about it. I am not a total idiot."

Berry said 17 out of 24 two-year-olds he had run in nurseries had carried top weight of 9st 7lb. Two of his four nursery winners had top weight.

"Some of my horses have won Mickey Mouse races early on in the season down at Brighton and other places where no-one else goes, and we get penalised for it. Some of them are really moderate. In recent nurseries one of mine won 9st 7lb was tail off, another finished ninth out of 11. That is not our kind of running."

Berry, who has had 83 two-year-olds winners this season, added: "No matter how much the horses cost or who trains them they should be handicapped flat on the day. It is embarrassing when a lot of my handicappers are running out the back."

Gibbs responded to Berry's remarks later, saying: "He is an outstanding trainer of two-year-olds and has achieved great success. A price of success is winning, is that your horses do rate highly in the handicap. That is precisely what the handicapping system is about."

Football

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Rugby League

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GOLF: British women's home internationals (Aberdour).

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Year	Percentage of Population Aged 65 and Over
1950	7.5%
1960	9.5%
1970	11.5%
1980	13.5%
1990	15.5%
2000 (Projected)	16.5%



Century damages Derbyshire's hopes

Malik's steadiness puts Essex ahead in war of attrition

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 92 runs ahead of Derbyshire

HIGH among the reasons for Essex's consistent success these past dozen years has been their shrewd selection of overseas players. Their latest, Salim Malik, is maintaining the proud tradition and, yesterday, made his sixth and most precious century of the championship season to negotiate a winning position against Derbyshire.

On a pitch less straightforward than the majority on this ground, and against bowling which begrudged every run, the gifted Pakistani was never allowed to play his natural game. Instead, with the title possibly depending on it, he kept his head down throughout a day of attritional but gruelling cricket and his unbeaten 131 put Essex in firm command.

Since the prolific and popular Kenny McEwan, in the late Seventies, Essex have always been well served by their imports. Nobby Phillip was followed by Allan Border and Mark Waugh, and the Australian connection may be resumed by Waugh next year. If he declines, Richie Richardson will be offered the job, but

even he will find Malik a hard act to follow.

A gentle, genial man, he flew home in mid-season to assuage an attack of homesickness but, by last night, it was the Derbyshire bowlers who were heartily sick of him. Their compensation, from a dispiriting day, was that they are now assured of a top-five finish for the first time in 31 years.

This, in itself, is no mean achievement in a year when they have been without Ian Bishop. Kim Barnett, the captain, was so pessimistic that he wrote in the club's yearbook "the county championship looks to be our weakest competition". In time, they will look back on it as a fine season but that their title chance is fast receding, because their bowling was not strong enough when it mattered most.

Dominic Cork, one of the discoveries of the summer, bowled an impressive opening spell and Richard Sladdin, aged 22, a left-arm spinner with a smooth action and a Yorkshire pedigree, then wheeled away unchanged for more than four hours.

He took three wickets and turned the ball, albeit slowly, but it was asking too much of a

novice to bowl out a side as accomplished as Essex. Barnett did not risk his back and Bowler had to offer 22 overs of occasional off-spin.

Watched by another crowd of almost 4,000, Essex began unconvincingly. Stephenson was dropped by Krikken in the day's first over from Mortensen, who got his man almost an hour later. Gooch was just beginning to dominate when he misjudged Cork's length and pulled to mid-wicket.

For more than an hour, Essex were confined to two runs an over and when Pritchard, sweeping at Sladdin, was bowled round his legs immediately before lunch, the game was wide open. Hussain, however, was refreshingly positive, playing some of the day's best shots before driving carefully to extra-cover. Knight confirmed his promise and Gurnham, having scrambled a third batting point with two balls to spare, confirmed what an awkward man he is to dislodge.

Through it all, the constant was Malik, vigilant for five-and-a-half chanceless hours and now close to 2,000 runs. He is unlikely to play a more crucial innings for his adopted club.

Somerset endure follow-on

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

THE shock of losing Jimmy Cook to Neil Radford's first ball when they were first to bat at Worcester yesterday had such a distressing effect on Somerset that they were dismissed for 83 and followed on a small matter of 492 arrears.

Conversely, Radford, whose best bowling stands at nine for 70 against Somerset on the same ground five years ago, was so inspired that he produced his season's best figures of seven for 43 to rout opposition bowlers by fielding through Tim Curran's marathon innings of 248.

The Worcester captain batted for two minutes under ten hours for his career-best score, which included 27 fours. If his objective was to overwhelm Somerset by sheer weight of runs, he certainly achieved it. Neil Malleren marked his return to the Somerset side after a long absence through injury with highly commendable figures of five for 80 and Tavare refused to yield, scoring an unbeaten 39 as Somerset battled a man short because of a knee ligament injury to Andy Hayhurst. The innings was completed in just under 31 overs.

Somerset are threatening to put up more of a match in their second innings in which Cook and Burns have scored 33 without being parted.

The Northamptonshire opening batsman, Alan Fordham, had a little finger dislocated when hit by a ball from David Lawrence at Bristol. He had to put back and remained to lead a successful attempt to stay in touch with Gloucestershire, who had batted on to reach 436.

But for Fordham, Northamptonshire might well have had to follow on, but after he was seventh out for 96, Roberts and Noon, the reserve wicket-keeper, put on 77. Northamptonshire are 149 behind.

Only when the ball was in the hands of Mark Ealham, son of the former Kent captain, were the Sussex batsmen in much difficulty at Hove where Donelan, the nightwatchman, set the tone with a lively 61.

Ealham had a spell of three for six in 23 balls before the brothers Wells restored order with a partnership of 90 and Sussex, at 345 for nine, finished only 36 in arrears. Ealham has so far taken five for 37, the best of his short career.

Imran Khan has been recruited as the Pakistan captain until the World Cup next February but Muddasar Nazir said he is no longer available to act as coach (AFP reports from Karachi).

Bowlers toil on Roses pitch

By PETER BALL

SCARBOROUGH (second day of four): Lancashire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 284 runs behind Yorkshire

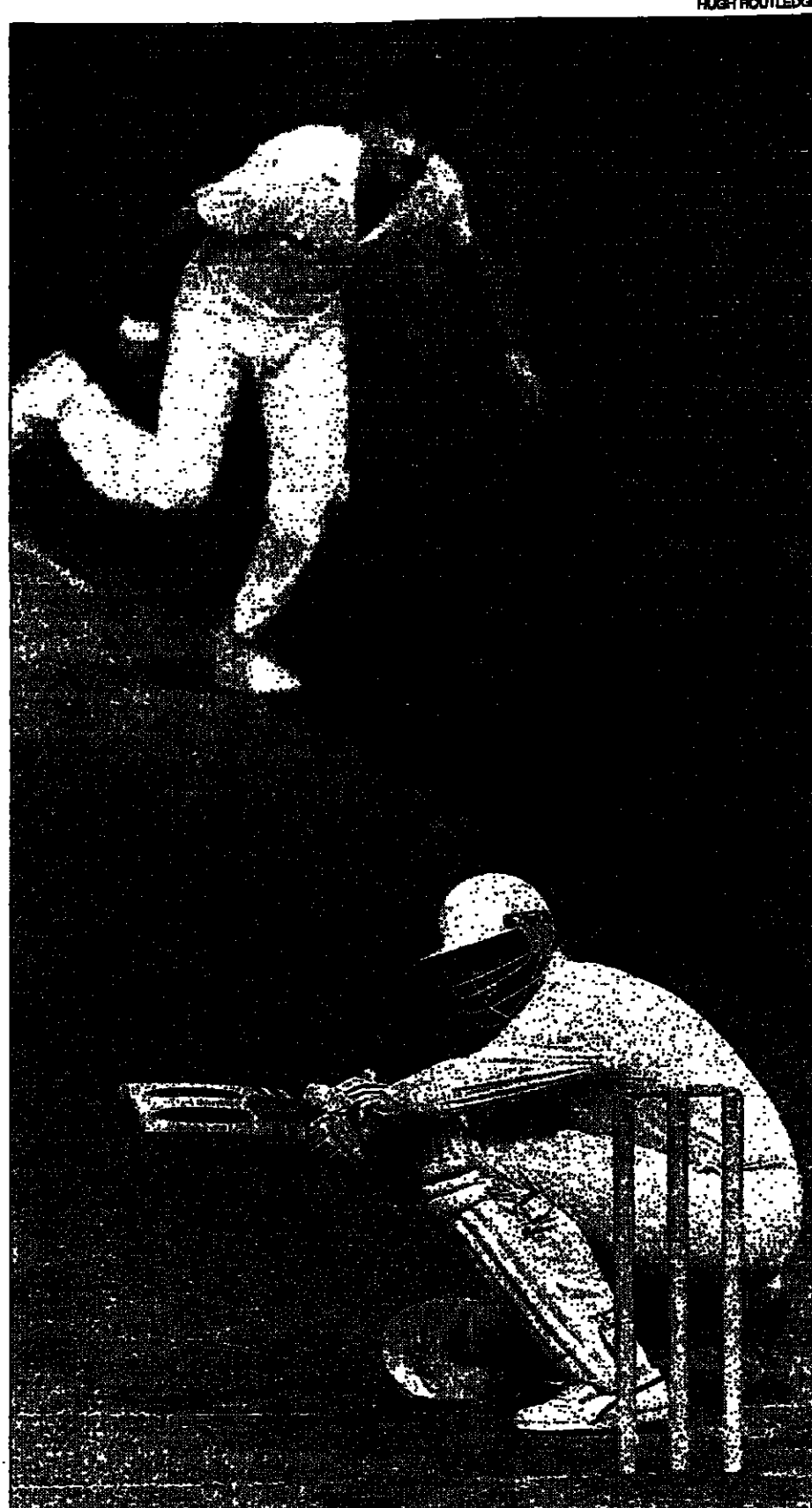
THE argument in favour of four-day cricket is that it enables players to be played out properly. Unless the Scarborough pitch suddenly changes character, the 231st Roses match would not be played out properly in six days. So far 518 runs have been scored for the loss of eight wickets. A veritable run feast, except that by the end of yesterday even the most avid collector of boundaries must have been sated. Oh for a nice green top, and a big seam; or even, heresy of heresies, three-day cricket on uncovered pitches.

As it is, barring a spectacular collapse by Lancashire's under-strength side, an accommodation and a run chase on the fourth day seems inevitable. That, of course, said something about Lancashire's weakened attack. But when DeFreitas, a good test bowler, ends up with two for 104 the balance is wrong. And while the bowlers toiled, the batsmen piled up their records. On the morning, Robinson only added 13 to his career best overnight total of 176, playing across the line to fall leg-before to Martin. Thereafter the runs

came thick and fast. Before giving John Crawley a victim in his role as deputy wicketkeeper while Hogg was off the field, Blakey reached his inevitable 50. So, spectacularly did Gough, a striker in the Graham Stevens vein, who brought up the 500 with a six onto the seats beside the press box. There seemed no reason why Yorkshire could not have batted on indefinitely to set untold new records, but Moxon decided it was Lancashire's turn to feast.

Even with 352 needed to avoid the follow-on, they did so with relish. Mendis, one of the only two Lancashire batsmen to have reached 1,000 runs this season, and Speak put on 180 almost at will even though Carrick showed that wily bowlers can keep things tight even on flat wickets.

Speak was in scintillating form, using his feet and splitting the offside field with regularity for most of his 144 runs in a championship career best 73 before being adjudged leg-before - it looked a harsh decision, but then perhaps the umpires were as bored as we were with the slaughter. Mendis went steadily on to his 100 before Mark Robinson, the pick of the Yorkshire seamers, found his edge, accelerating a decision to depart for bad light ten minutes early.



Out of the firing line: Darren Bicknell, the Surrey batsman, ducks a bouncer from Hampshire's Shane during his innings of 54 at the Oval yesterday. Report, page 40

Randall dictates the pace to limit Middlesex spin

By JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with seven wickets in hand, are 248 runs behind Middlesex

FOR a time, it seemed as though Middlesex had Nottinghamshire by the throat. They had taken their score to 455, Brown having taken his overnight 81 to an undefeated 143. It was 3pm and Embury, who had not allowed to dictate line and length. He was down the wicket or he was back on his stumps; seldom was he caught in no-man's-land. There was a cockiness, or genius, about his play which drove Embury and Tufnell into their shells. There were seven fives and a dismissive straight six in his 67.

The pitch is taking turn more extravagantly by the day, but still slowly. The left-handers offered no stroke. Derek Randall strode on to the scene, stroked the ball around from the start, mowed past 50 in 48 minutes and, with Johnson following his lead, Nottinghamshire finished the day within sight of saving a follow-on which once loomed large.

Randall's innings was a supreme example of what can happen when the bowler is not allowed to dictate line and length. He was down the wicket or he was back on his stumps; seldom was he caught in no-man's-land. There was a cockiness, or genius, about his play which drove Embury and Tufnell into their shells. There were seven fives and a dismissive straight six in his 67.

The pitch is taking turn more extravagantly by the day, but still slowly. The left-handers

have a problem where the rough is concerned and this affected Broad and Pollard more than spinners. Embury had two slips, a point and a short leg when bowling to Broad. Robinson, too, was shackled. Robinson bore something of a charmed life while he was otherwise coping adequately though not decisively with the spinners. Apparently dropped at the wicket of Embury soon after opening his account, he had reached 34 when all Middlesex seemed to believe that Farbrace had made amends, this time when Tufnell was the bowler. Robinson stayed. The joy when Tufnell eventually bowled Robinson, on the walk, was unconfined. Otherwise, as Randall strode on, there was little further joy for Middlesex, confined or otherwise.

Archer's aim is a double

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET by MICHAEL AUSTIN

PHILLIP Garner, the Oxfordshire captain, admits to having the highest regard for Staffordshire, who will be aiming to achieve the first title double in Minor Counties history when the teams meet in the championship final at Luton on Sunday, having completed the first leg with a four-wicket win over Devon in the Holt Cup.

Garner said: "Being in different divisions, we have played Staffordshire only in the cup over recent seasons. But I do know that they have talented opening batsmen in Steve Dean and David Cardigan and have developed into a good all-round team."

"Even so, in the past six years, we have won the western division three times and finished runners-up once to prove we can compete every summer at the highest Minor Counties level."

Garner, aged 45, is contemplating retirement at the end of the season believing that Oxfordshire cricket is in a healthy state with the emergence of Graham Swales, David Wise, and Patrick Johnson, who have all made significant contributions.

Mark Humphries, Staffordshire's wicketkeeper, took 18 runs off the first five balls of the final over to clinch the cup at Luton. It was their first title since winning the championship in 1927 and only their seventh overall.

Nick Archer, the Staffordshire captain, believes his side did not play to its potential.

STAFFORDSHIRE (first): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (second): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (third): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (fourth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (fifth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (sixth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (seventh): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (eighth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (ninth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (tenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (eleventh): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twelfth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (fourteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (fifteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (sixteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (seventeenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (eighteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (nineteenth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twentieth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-first): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-second): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-third): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-fourth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-fifth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-sixth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-seventh): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-eighth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (twenty-ninth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirtieth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-first): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-second): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-third): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-fourth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-fifth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-sixth): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (18), J. C. Smith (16), J. B. Smith (14), J. A. Smith (12), J. D. Smith (10), J. C. Smith (8), J. B. Smith (6), J. A. Smith (4), J. D. Smith (2), J. C. Smith (0).

STAFFORDSHIRE (thirty-seventh): N. J. Archer (115), D. Cardigan (54), D. Wise (52), P. Johnson (48), M. Humphries (37), S. Dean (34), J. Garner (28), J. Dutton (24), J. B. Smith (22), J. A. Smith (20), J. D. Smith (1

